

Scoping Report

for the King Range National Conservation Area
Management Plan Update



USDI Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office, California
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EDAW

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is updating the Management Plan for the King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA). Public involvement is a vital component of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the BLM Resource Management Planning process for vesting the public in the decision-making process and allowing for full environmental disclosure. The first phase of the public involvement process, also called “scoping,” is designed to help determine the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the plan update, by identifying what topics the public feels are most important to future management of the KRNCA. This report documents the results from the public scoping phase of this project, conducted in November and December 2002.

PUBLIC SCOPING ACTIVITIES

A variety of methods were used to publicize the scoping process and to solicit public comment. This process began with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on October 11, 2002 (volume 67, no. 198, which notified the public of the BLM’s intent to update the KRNCA’s Management Plan (Appendix A).

In order to inform interested parties of the KRNCA planning effort, the location of public scoping meetings, and the opportunity to comment, newspaper advertisements (Appendix B) and press releases to local and major Northern California news media were issued in late October and early November. A website was launched at the same time to serve as a clearinghouse for project information while the Management Plan update is being developed. In addition, a planning update mailing was sent via direct mail to over 400 individuals and organizations (Appendix C), and flyers were posted at various locations in and around the King Range planning area and in the San Francisco Bay Area (Appendix D).

Five public scoping meetings were held in November 2002, four in local communities close to the King Range and one in the San Francisco Bay Area: Garberville, CA on November 6; San Francisco, CA on November 7; Eureka, CA on November 13; Shelter Cove, CA on November 14; and Petrolia, CA on November 16. The meetings were held to gather information from the public on the future management of the KRNCA. Participants were asked questions on what they valued about these lands, what kinds of activities or uses were important to them, and how they envisioned the area being managed in the future. Over 120 people attended these meetings.

To gather written comments, an official scoping comment period was open from October 15 to December 15, 2002, although the deadline was extended to December 31 to accommodate bad weather and the holiday season. Fifty-six “Visioning Sheets” were received, as well as forty-nine letters or emails with comments.

PUBLIC SCOPING RESULTS

All comments received either in writing or at public meetings are included in this analysis. Many of the submissions contained multiple comments on different topics. A total of over 1,200 comments were compiled from the meetings and the 105 written submissions received through

December 31, 2002. These comments were recorded and categorized according to both source and topic. The database containing these comments is on file with the BLM and is available to the public upon request.

The clearest message from people who submitted comments during the scoping process was that they value the King Range for its primitive character—it represents a unique opportunity to experience the California coastline in a relatively undeveloped and natural state. This priority forms an overarching vision for the future of the KRNCA, and informs or relates to all other activities and management issues.

The key issues identified by the public during this process fell into seven broad areas: the area's primitive character and values, recreation use, transportation and access, education and interpretation, community support and involvement, resource conservation and management, and fire management. These issues will be addressed in developing the alternatives and management priorities throughout the RMP/EIS process.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

A number of issues raised in the scoping process will not be addressed by the Management Plan update. These issues involve legislative constraints, a lack of BLM jurisdiction, or fall outside of the KRNCA planning area. They include wilderness designation, certain possible land acquisitions, and offshore oil drilling, among others.

The report also summarizes an evaluation of existing KRNCA management plans and lists decisions that will be carried forward and not addressed in this effort. These include land management standards developed in regional plans such as the Northwest Forest Plan/Rangeland Health Standards, and west slope motor vehicle use designations.

There are also some multi-jurisdictional issues beyond the BLM's management authority to fully implement, but that directly affect the KRNCA; these will be addressed in the plan. The BLM will seek cooperation with those agencies with management authority to help address the issues. Plan outcomes will serve as recommendations and opportunities to work with the appropriate agency or entity to implement. These issues include management of marine resources and wildlife reintroductions.

Finally, this report includes draft "planning criteria," intended to help guide the evaluation of alternatives and decisions in the Management Plan update and EIS. It also identifies the next steps in the planning process and an expected timetable for completion.

I.0 INTRODUCTION

I.1 BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF AREA

The King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA) is located along the rugged northern California coast about 60 miles south of Eureka and 200 miles north of San Francisco. An abrupt wall of mountains thrusts 4,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean, making the area one of the most spectacular and remote stretches of coastline in the continental U.S. The elemental beauty and ever-changing mood of the Pacific Ocean meeting the wild, undeveloped coastline, old-growth forests and rugged peaks of the King Range provided the rationale for the original NCA designation, and continues to draw people from all over the world to visit the “Lost Coast” of California. Visitors pursue a wide variety of activities including hiking and backpacking on over 80 miles of trails, camping, beach-combing, surfing, hunting, vehicular touring and sight-seeing on a 45-mile network of BLM and county-maintained roads, environmental education and wildlife viewing. Additional uses involve special forest products collection (mostly mushrooms) and grazing of cattle by several local ranchers.

King Range Coastline



The King Range Act (Public Law 91-476) established it as the nation’s first National Conservation Area on October 21, 1970. It represents the culmination of years of effort to protect the area, beginning in 1929 when it was first withdrawn from deposition or sale under the public lands laws. The 1970 Act directed the BLM to complete “a comprehensive, balanced, and coordinated plan of land use, development, and management . . . based on an inventory and evaluation of the available resources and requirements for such resources, and on the topography and other features of the area.” The King Range NCA was formally established on September 21, 1974, with the final acceptance of the King Range Management Program (KRMP) and a public dedication ceremony held at Shelter Cove.

The 1974 Management Program detailed management actions for approximately 54,000 acres of public and private lands within the boundaries of the KRNCA. In 1974, 35,000 acres were publicly owned, and 19,000 acres were in private ownership. The Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579) extended the boundary of the KRNCA to its

current configuration. Acquisition of private lands within the KRNCA has consolidated public ownership within the area. Currently the area includes approximately 57,000 acres of public and 6,000 acres of private lands. Numerous parcels of BLM-managed lands also adjoin the boundary of the area.

The BLM Arcata Field Office is responsible for management of the KRNCA. A Project Office/Visitor Center, staffed by a manager plus resource, fire, ranger and maintenance staff is located in Whitethorn, at the southern end of the KRNCA, and is responsible for on-ground management. Staff from both offices are responsible for the preparation of the KRNCA plan update.

1.1.1 Planning Area Description and Map

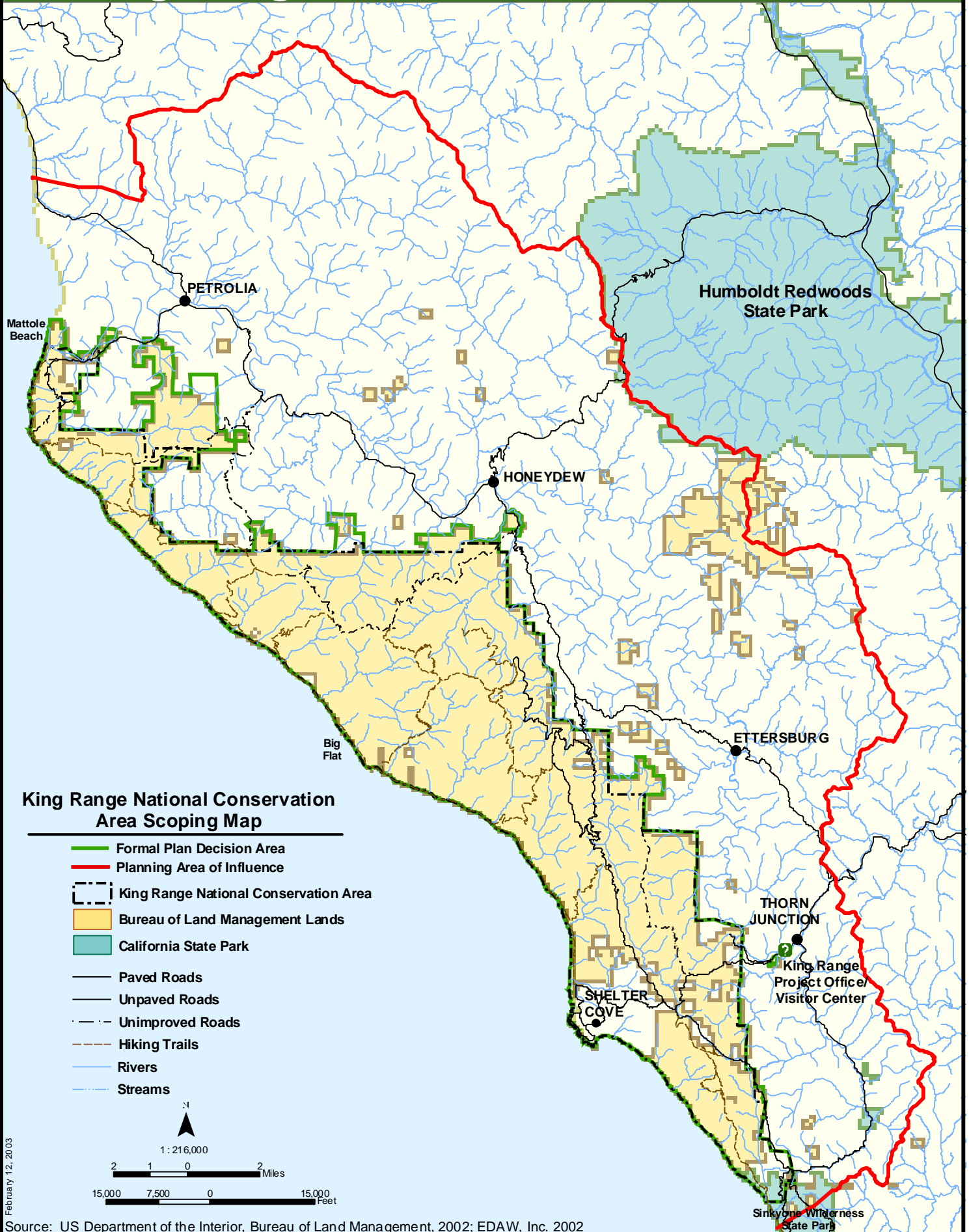
The formal plan decision area encompasses lands within the Congressionally-designated KRNCA, as well as BLM-managed lands contiguous to the KRNCA and two non-contiguous BLM parcels: one containing the KRNCA Project Office/Visitor Center, and the other, the Honeydew Creek Campground. Formal decisions in the plan will only apply to these lands.

However, a planning “area of influence” will also include the surrounding region stretching from McNutt Gulch near Petrolia in the north to Whale Gulch in the south, including the Mattole River Watershed (see Figure 1). The plan will recognize that these nearby lands, communities, resource values and uses are all affected by management of the KRNCA, and their use/values in turn affect management of the KRNCA. For example, land use decisions in the portion of the Mattole watershed within the KRNCA can affect anadromous fish spawning success for the entire Mattole Watershed. Also, community efforts such as the “Redwoods to the Sea” project, the Mattole Headwaters Ecological Reserve, and the Mill Creek Conservancy Project are encouraging stewardship programs that link the resource values of the KRNCA to these nearby lands. The plan may suggest actions for areas or programs that are not under the BLM’s jurisdiction but directly affect KRNCA management (for example, county road signs, tourism information programs, etc.). However, final decisions regarding these actions will rest with the appropriate agency or community land stewardship plans/programs. Similarly, actions related to BLM lands outside the KRNCA planning area will be carried forward as recommendations for incorporation into the appropriate BLM plan.

BLM planning guidance promotes making land use plan decisions at different geographic scales to ensure that issues are addressed in their entirety and to encourage public involvement. The KRNCA Management Plan update will follow this guidance and address certain issues that extend beyond the planning area so that they are considered holistically. For example, the communities of Garberville, Redway and Ferndale are outside the planning area boundary, but are directly linked to the KRNCA regarding tourism and recreation issues.

The planning area is in Northern California Coast Ranges Geographic Province and includes about 38 miles of rugged Pacific coastline, extending inland up to 12 miles. The spine of the King Range is the most prominent geographic feature, and separates a number of west slope coastal watersheds from the Mattole River, which drains the entire east side of the KRNCA. The 340 square mile Mattole watershed historically has supported significant runs of anadromous fish such as salmon and steelhead. The fishery has been threatened by a variety of human impacts, and local communities are actively working to restore the watershed. Public lands in the KRNCA encompass about 12 percent of the watershed.

King Range National Conservation Area



I.2 PURPOSE AND NEED OF KING RANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The purpose of the King Range Management Plan update is to evaluate the original plan and reaffirm and reestablish guidance, objectives, policies, and management actions for the KRNCA that reflect current issues, knowledge, and conditions. The planning effort will be comprehensive in nature, evaluating existing management plans and resolving or addressing issues within the KRNCA identified through agency, interagency, and public scoping efforts.

Several additions and adjustments to the original management program have occurred since 1974 as environmental conditions, public needs, and management issues and strategies have changed: rule making has been implemented through the publishing of *Federal Register* notes; activity-level plans have been developed and implemented; and the Northwest Forest Plan (April 1994) amended all public land use management plans in the Pacific Northwest, including the King Range Management Program. An additional plan amendment was made in 1998 to change management of Black Sands Beach to non-motorized use only.

The revised management plan will analyze the current management situation and identify desired future conditions to be maintained or achieved, management actions necessary to achieve objectives, and a schedule and cost estimate for implementing the actions necessary to achieve stated goals. The plan will address and integrate all existing management plans and programs, including but not limited to fire management, livestock grazing, threatened and endangered species, recreation and visitor services, watershed management, and transportation. The plan will meet the stated requirements of the King Range Act.

The following list of specific factors illustrates the need for preparation of an updated Management Plan. The existing plan is 29 years old. Many conditions, both social and resource-based, have changed since 1974, including:

1. The passage of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976 expanded the boundaries of the KRNCA and established guidelines, rules, and regulations for the administration and management of public lands. FLPMA also required lands within the KRNCA to be evaluated for wilderness values, and established interim management requirements to protect these values.
2. Listing under the Endangered Species Act of the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, chinook and coho salmon, and steelhead trout, among other species, has significantly affected forest management activities in the Pacific Northwest, including the King Range. Forest management objectives proposed in the 1974 plan are no longer achievable.
3. The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan amended all federal land use plans and established land allocations and standards/guidelines for management of habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species within the range of the northern spotted owl, including the KRNCA.
4. The counties in which the KRNCA lies, Humboldt and Mendocino, and the entire State of California have undergone dramatic changes in social and economic conditions since 1974. Locally, the economic base continues to shift from mostly

resource extraction (particularly timber) to a mixed economy of which tourism is a major component. Tourism is also a key part of California's economy. The population of the two counties continues to grow at a moderate rate. California's population has grown by more than 50% since 1974 and is expected to double in the next 40 years. Approximately 10 million people live within a five hour drive of the KRNCA. Recreation on public lands has changed dramatically over the past 28 years, both in levels of use and in the kinds of recreational activities, including commercial use, which were not addressed in the 1974 plan.

5. During the past 10 years, local and regional conservation organizations have begun to look to BLM to acquire lands, or have acquired lands themselves for transfer to the BLM. They are entrusting the BLM to manage these lands to protect significant ecological values and to add to regional biodiversity adjoining and surrounding the KRNCA. The plan update will assess the stewardship of newly acquired lands such as the Mill Creek and Squaw Creek parcels as they relate to the management of the KRNCA.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPING/PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

To publicize the kick-off of the KRNCA Management Plan update effort and to encourage public input early in the planning process, a number of methods were used. This public involvement process, also known as “scoping,” was used to identify a range of ideas, concerns and suggestions to be considered during the planning process and in the Environmental Impact Statement that will be prepared along with the plan update. It is summarized below.

2.1 NOTICES (NEWS MEDIA, WEBSITE, DIRECT MAIL, FLYERS)

Notice of Intent

The Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on October 11, 2002 (volume 67, no. 198). A copy of this notice can be found in Appendix A.

Press Releases

Press releases were sent to local and major Northern California news media.

Public Scoping Meetings

Notices advertising the public scoping meetings (see Appendix B) were run in two Bay Area newspapers:

- San Francisco Weekly, 2 runs: 10/30 and 11/6
- Berkeley Daily Planet, 5 runs: 10/29, 11/1, 11/3, 11/4, and 11/6

Website

An informational website, www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/kingrange/King_Range_Plan.html, was made available to the public on November 4, 2002. It provided background information on the King Range, an outline of the planning process, a schedule of upcoming meetings, plus an opportunity for people to email comments directly to the BLM offices. It had received roughly 160 hits by December 31, 2002. In addition, a phone-in hotline was made available for comments or questions about the planning process: 707-825-2368. The hotline did not generate many calls; three or four people called asking for directions to public meetings held in November and a few called inquiring about the scoping process and how to submit written comments.

Planning Update Mailer

The BLM produced a special Planning Update mailer to announce the scoping effort. These were sent via direct mail on October 16, 2002. There were 229 people on the initial mailing list, and a total of 407 sent after additions were made to the mailing list. The Planning Update included background information on the King Range, a description and timeline for the upcoming planning process, dates and locations of the public scoping meetings, and contact

information for getting public comments to the BLM. It also contained a “Visioning Sheet” as an insert, which people could fill out and mail back to the BLM with their comments. A copy of this mailer, with the “Visioning Sheet,” can be found in Appendix C.

Flyers

Flyers announcing the public scoping meetings (see Appendix D) were posted in the following locations (both in surrounding communities and with several shops and organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area):

Campground kiosks at

- Wailaki Campground
- Nadelos Campground
- Honeydew Campground
- Mattole Campground

Shelter Cove

- Kiosk at Black Sands Beach and Mal Coombs Park
- Shelter Cove Deli
- Shelter Cove General Store
- Mario's Marina
- Resort Improvement District
- Coffee Shop

Whitethorn

- BLM Project Office
- Post Office
- Whitethorn Construction
- Lost Coast Market

Petrolia

- Petrolia Store
- Petrolia Grange Hall
- A.W. Way County Park

Honeydew

- Honeydew Store

Redway

- Shop Smart
- Redway Liquor & Deli
- Laundromat

Garberville

- Sentry Market
- Trees Foundation
- Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
- Chataqua Health Food Store
- Life & Times
- The Independent
- Theater

Eureka

- Northern Mountain Supply
- Bucksport
- Pro Sports Center

Arcata

- Adventures Edge
- Outdoor Store
- Humboldt Surf Company

Mendocino

- Sierra Club Redwood Chapter (plus local outing groups)

Berkeley

- Sierra Club East Bay Chapter (Bookstore and Office)
- REI

San Francisco

- Patagonia

Radio

BLM staff conducted an on-air interview at KMUD radio station to publicize the scoping meetings and discuss various topics related to the plan update.

2.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Five public scoping meetings were held in November 2002, four in local communities close to the King Range and one in the San Francisco Bay Area: Garberville, CA on November 6; San Francisco, CA on November 7; Eureka, CA on November 13; Shelter Cove, CA on November 14; and Petrolia, CA on November 16. Four of the five meetings were held in the evening on weekdays, from 6-8pm, while the Petrolia meeting was held as a potluck in the afternoon on a Saturday, from 1-4pm. Attendance totaled over 120 individuals, with the breakdown per meeting as follows:

- Garberville: 24 people
- San Francisco: 2 people
- Eureka: 42 people
- Shelter Cove: 24 people
- Petrolia: 33 people

Open House at Petrolia Community Center



The meetings were held to gather information from the public on the future management of the KRNCA. Participants were asked questions on what they valued about these lands, what kinds of activities or uses were important to them, and how they envisioned the area being managed in the future.

All of the meetings followed a similar format, beginning with an informal “open house” period of 15-20 minutes. Members of the public were greeted at the entrance, asked to sign in, and given name tags; BLM and EDAW employees all wore tags with their name and affiliation. Visitors

were encouraged to look at various maps and photographic displays arranged around the room, and to ask questions; BLM and EDAW staff mingled throughout and encouraged one-on-one dialogue. After a brief introduction by the Arcata Field Manager and/or the KRNCA Manager, BLM staff gave a PowerPoint presentation on the planning process, outlining what the plan hoped to achieve, the public's role in contributing to the plan direction and substance, etc. After the presentation, EDAW staff facilitated a question and answer period of roughly ten minutes.

PowerPoint Presentation at Eureka



Members of the public were then split into small groups for discussion. These small groups were facilitated by EDAW staff, with BLM staff acting as “scribes” writing down public comments. The facilitators guided participants through three questions regarding creating an overall vision for the King Range, identifying goals and common values, and suggesting specific actions for achieving those goals. The groups worked for approximately 40 minutes, then reconvened with the larger group to summarize their discussions. Finally, EDAW staff briefly outlined the next steps in the planning process, highlighting the role and importance of continuing public involvement. This format was followed at all of the meetings except San Francisco, where poor weather contributed to a very small public turnout (only two individuals). After the PowerPoint presentation, a brief discussion ensued with the two attendees to record their input and concerns.

Small Group Discussion at Shelter Cove



The following organizations and agencies were represented among the people who signed in at public meetings (in alphabetical order):

- Americorps
- Ancient Forests International (AFI)
- California Conservation Corps
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Forestry
- California State Parks
- Coastal Headwaters/Whale Gulch
- Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
- Humboldt State University
- Lost Coast 4X4s
- Lost Coast Camp
- Lost Coast Properties
- Mattole Fire Safe Council
- Mattole Restoration Council
- Mattole Salmon Group
- Mattole Valley Community Center
- MGW Biological Surveys
- Middle Mattole Conservancy
- Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy
- North Coast Neighborhood Council

- Off-Road Advertiser Magazine
- Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department
- San Francisco State University
- Sanctuary Forest
- Shelter Cove Fire Dept.
- Sierra Club
- US Forest Service

2.3 ADDITIONAL OUTREACH

BLM staff also provided briefings/presentations for the Shelter Cove Property Owners Association (August 31, 2002), Garberville Rotary Club (November 5, 2002) and the Garberville Chamber of Commerce (November 6, 2002).

In addition, staff from BLM and EDAW, as well as a number of community members, attended a three-day “Planning Concepts Training Workshop” in August 2002, introducing the participants to the BLM planning process. While this meeting was not a formal part of the scoping process, community participants provided input on planning and management concerns for the KRNCA. 32 people attended this training, including members of the Mattole Restoration Council, Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District, Middle Mattole Conservancy, Lost Coast Properties, Bear River Tribe of Rohnerville Rancheria, Mattole Salmon Group, Prosper Ridge Fire Rescue, Whitethorn Winery, and the Mattole Fire Safe Council.

2.4 COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

Humboldt County has been approached by the BLM regarding “cooperating agency” status. While the County has expressed interest, to date it has not established a formal relationship. Also the following agencies were notified of the planning process, and formal consultation will be ongoing: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), California Coastal Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Efforts are underway to establish a Technical Review Committee with these agencies as well as the California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry, California State Parks and other appropriate agencies. The BLM’s Arcata Field Manager also contacted the Humboldt County Supervisors and Congressman Mike Thompson’s office.

2.5 COLLABORATION WITH TRIBES

No scoping comments were received from tribes. The Bear River Tribe, Rohnerville Rancheria is the federally recognized tribe for KRNCA issues, and will be consulted throughout the planning process. Members of this tribe did attend the three-day “Planning Concepts Training Workshop” in August 2002.

2.6 WRITTEN COMMENTS

An official scoping comment period was open from October 15 to December 15, 2002, although the deadline was extended to December 31 to accommodate bad weather and the

holiday season. Fifty-six “Visioning Sheets” were received, as well as forty-nine letters or emails with comments.

Roughly half (52) of the written comments came from residents or organizations from communities within the immediate vicinity of southern Humboldt County, and another quarter (21) from other towns on the northern coast of California. Fourteen responses originated from the San Francisco Bay Area, a few from near Sacramento, one from Monterey and one from Bakersfield. Only three written comments came from out of state (Oregon, Colorado and South Dakota). Eleven written comments did not include an address (mostly emails). Twenty letters and emails appeared to be “form” letters, conforming to one of two standardized outlines. Official letters of comment were received from six organizations: Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), Mattole Restoration Council, International Mountain Bicycling Association, California Bicycle Coalition, California Wilderness Coalition, and North Group Sierra Club. Members of a number of other organizations, mostly locally-based, provided additional comments; because these were not on organizational letterhead, it is not clear if the opinions were those of the organization or the individual. The organizations and businesses represented are listed here (in alphabetical order):

- Humboldt Surf Co.
- Lost Coast Interpretive Association
- Lost Coast Property
- Lost Coast Trail Transport Service
- Mattole Camp and Retreat
- Mattole Fire Council
- Mattole Salmon Support Group
- Mendocino County Air Quality Management District
- Middle Mattole Conservancy
- Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy
- MLSWM - Buckeye Conservancy
- North Coast Regional Land Trust
- SONAR, Mendocino
- Wild River Radio Folk

3.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

3.1 METHODOLOGY

This report summarizes comments received in the five public meetings and from roughly 100 “Visioning Sheets,” letters and emails, totaling approximately 1,200 individual comments. In the following pages, “comments” or “points” refer to a discrete statement or portion of a letter, email or “Visioning Sheet” pertaining to a specific issue. Generally each written letter, sheet or email contained many different points; the content of each letter was recorded in full, but comments were then broken down into individual points in our database.

Each point or comment was then coded to a specific issue category. Comments from letters and emails were reorganized to keep all statements addressing the same category together, but were otherwise recorded verbatim. Occasionally, a comment addressed more than one issue category, in which case it was coded to both categories it directly addressed (this increased the total number of points in the database by approximately 150). Comments received at public meetings were recorded as closely to how they were stated as possible, but are not direct quotes.

Our intent with this report is to provide a review of the range of comments received. We have also listed the number of comments received on each topic to give the reader an idea of the amount of public interest by topic. These numbers were not used to constitute a “vote.” The BLM considers all comments in the planning process, even if only made by a few people or one individual, provided the comment is relevant (i.e., substantive and within the scope of the plan).

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

4.1.1 Primitive Character (102 comments)

Over one hundred comments identified the primitive character of the King Range landscape as a central priority they wished to see continued. Most of these expressed their appreciation for the uniqueness of the area and their desire that it remain unchanged. Words frequently used to describe the area include: primitive, undeveloped, wild, remote, solitude, not crowded, wilderness, and roadless. Often people emphasized how unusual it is to find these qualities along coastal lands, as so much of California's coast is heavily developed. Some examples of these comments follow:

"I would like the KRNCA to remain as 'pristine' as possible, so that future generations are able to experience the environment with few developments and urban amenities."

"Benefits: quiet, solitude, open space. Low visitation, low impact. A sense of wildness unlike most state and national parks. We still have the opportunity [to experience] these qualities."

"First, I would like to commend the BLM for having managed this area well in the past, preserving its wildness and ecological health. It is good to know that this still-wild piece of coastline still exists in this overpopulated and overdeveloped state of ours. Thus I would like to see the BLM keep it this way into the far future."



Approximately twenty comments focused more specifically on actions or situations that negatively impact the primitive character of the landscape. These included the effect of increasing levels of use, of motorized uses in particular, and of excessive management. Several people singled out military flyovers as reducing the wild feel of the King Range. One suggested that fewer temporary driftwood shelters on the coast are needed to retain a primitive backcountry experience. At one of the public meetings, a strong sentiment emerged from some of the participants that the BLM should preserve the wild setting as a priority over increased public use or commercial gain. And one writer reminded the agency:

"Remember a hands-off attitude is okay, generally. You don't need to 'manage' it to have it be a great region for everyone to enjoy!"

Another theme in this group of comments is the importance of scenic and visual resources. Again, many people singled out having such dramatic views of an undeveloped stretch of California coastline as the highlight of their experience of the King Range. Several people urged limits on structures (such as communication towers or lighting in Shelter Cove) or other types of development that could negatively impact the scenic qualities of the area. One specifically suggested limiting open fires as detracting from the beauty of the beach. A sampling of these comments includes:

“Undeveloped coastline offering a view of old California with spectacular scenery and climate.”

“It provides a scenic solitary alternative to a sometimes hectic yet sedentary life. The physical exercise in the scenic landscape brings balance to my life, and makes me more healthy and whole. Just being there lifts my spirits.”

“Wild, scenic with some access, kept mostly primitive. Appreciate the opportunity to experience the constantly changing coastline—a great place to take visitors!”

4.1.2 Recreation and Visitor Use

Non-Motorized Recreation Access (60 comments)

Sixty comments related to non-motorized recreation access in the King Range. A few simply reflected appreciation for the recreation opportunities available in the area, including hiking and backpacking, surfing, fishing, horse or bicycle riding, camping and hunting. One person specified the preservation of backcountry wilderness access, another felt dogs should be allowed in the area. Four people identified the importance of keeping recreation uses low-impact, including encouraging use of bear canisters among backcountry campers.

Eleven comments concerned regulation of recreation access. Some were worried about losing access, particularly in comparison to the nearby Headwaters Forest where some felt they’d been excluded. Others cited conflicts on trails between different user groups, such as hikers, equestrians and bicyclists, and suggested separate trails, designations or limitations on heavier-impact uses. In contrast, several wrote to caution against too many restrictions, and particularly excluding certain non-motorized user groups but not others. At one of the public meetings, a group called for restricting public access to the Mill Creek area specifically, to preserve old growth forests as well as reduce fire danger and trespassing.

Ten comments raised the issue of universal access, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, and/or providing more “friendly” access for seniors or others who may be less mobile. At one public meeting, someone suggested a need for disabled access “beyond the parking lot,” and another person chimed in: “I don’t think my heart should be affected because my legs don’t work.” As regular visitors to the King Range area, this increasingly becomes a concern. Several people suggested allowing use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) or providing drive-in access to Hidden Valley for the elderly or those with disabilities; others suggested providing handicapped access trails at such places as Chemise Mountain, Black Sands Beach, or Tolkan. This sentiment was summed up by one writer as follows:

“There is certainly room for all classes of visitors. Unfortunately, current policy seems to favor young, physically fit individuals. Easier motor access to all areas should be a priority for handicapped or elderly.”

A number of comments were received specific to certain user groups or activities. A number of people mentioned the good trail access for hiking and backpacking, and wished for this to continue. One person requested that people be allowed to sleep in their cars overnight at trailheads. Access for undeveloped camping was appreciated, but one writer expressed concern that too many people choose to camp at the mouths of creeks in the backcountry, possibly interfering with wildlife as well as causing contamination of the water, and suggested restricting camping within 200 yards of creeks. A related concern was with the concentration of surfers at Big Flat causing sanitation and congestion problems.



Several people commented on enjoying horseback riding but feeling that equestrians were being “squeezed out” of the King Range. One suggested that horses could be used to facilitate access for the disabled. Several other people wrote about bicycle access; one wanted mountain bikes to be barred from King Range trails and allowed on roads only, while others expressed their enthusiasm for biking on King Range trails and wishing them to remain open. One letter suggested the following distinction:

“Bicycles should be considered a form of non-motorized travel, rather than a human-powered form of off-highway-vehicle. Bicyclists are less like motorcyclists without engines; more like hikers with wheels. When the BLM formulated its formal OHV Strategy, there was consideration of including bicycling. The agency chose to create separate strategies, recognizing the vast difference between OHVs and bikes.”

The issue of hunting in the King Range generated ten comments. Two people advocated eliminating all hunting from the area, while three felt it should remain or were concerned with access being reduced. One person suggested that target practice should not be allowed when the hunting season is closed, and that hunting season should not open just before Labor Day. Others worried about conflicts between hunters and other recreationists, particularly hikers

and the possible risk of injury, or questioned whether hunting is compatible with the overall wild character and ecological sustainability of the King Range.

Motorized Recreation Access (103 comments)

This category represents a large number of comments, totaling one hundred and three. Fourteen of these were specifically in favor of allowing access to motorized vehicles such as OHVs, 4x4s, and/or motorcycles. A number of these related specifically to utilizing motorized vehicles for elderly or disabled people who might not be able to access the area otherwise. Others requested access be opened (or reopened) to specific areas, such as Gitchell Creek, the Smith-Etter road, or beach access in general. One participant at a public meeting felt so upset with increased regulations on OHV use that he wanted to move away, after living in the area for many years. Another simply requested that access not be restricted any further:

“I’m a regular visitor to the KRNCA. I feel it is essential to not close more existing vehicular roadways in the King Range NCA.”

In contrast, fifty-eight comments advocated not allowing access to motorized vehicles of any kind, or not opening any new areas to motorized use. Many of these cited the primitive character of the King Range and the adverse impact of noise, tracks, and ecological impacts of motorized recreation. Some representative examples include:

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] As much green as possible, as few roads as possible, access methods with minimal impact.

“Worry about inadequate management i.e. allowing motorized vehicles; keep services near existing roads. Do not increase auto use.”

“I only hiked the Lost Coast Trail, but I think the current programs on that trail are doing a great job in preserving the trail. Please never let motorized vehicles on the Lost Coast Trail! Noise pollution from motorized vehicles.”

“Your office has done an excellent job of managing the King Range over the last decade, particularly in your decision to close the Black Sands Beach area to off-road vehicles. I would fully support any further closing of roads within the NCA if needed for unique habitat preservation or establishment of corridors between current roadless areas.”

Eight comments specifically addressed access by plane, boat or other motorized watercraft, particularly at Big Flat. Several expressed concern that these types of motorized access allowed too heavy of use in this backcountry area, and could reduce the primitive experience sought by others. Two comments expressing different sides of the issue are quoted here:

“I’m concerned with preserving reasonable day use access to surf at Big Flat, which is mainly by boat; air access at both Big and Miller Flats should be protected for those legally entitled.”

“Surfing at Big Flat has turned congested. Since there is no motorized access from the south or north, trash and food left by surfers, where they defecate and the length of their stay has greatly impact the coast. Get the group of local surfers to a meeting and discuss the impact. Signage for the out of the area surfers, letters to Surfrider

Foundation and a KMUD talk show could help as well. If the surfers do not police themselves, restrict the number of boats per surfing day that launch out of the Shelter Cove ramp; maybe even a permit and fee process until the situation improves regarding voluntary trash removal.”

An additional twenty-one comments urged the BLM to not allow vehicular use of the King Range beaches:

“Complete exclusions of motorized vehicles from beaches. Restriction on excessive use, no more roads, no paving. I want it to look the same as it was 30 years ago when I first visited the area except no vehicles.”

“In October of 2001 I had the opportunity to backpack with a friend from Black Sands Beach to Buck Creek and I was in absolute awe of the area. It is the only place I have ever had the opportunity to hike and camp and explore coastal beaches without the effects of 4x4s or ATVs. Before I had only known of that type of solitude in the wilderness areas of the high-country. The King Range is a uniquely peaceful spot on our Pacific coast that I hope will remain every bit as such.”

One person suggested using plants rather than fences to protect the beach from motorized access. Another letter requested that some beach areas be designated for mountain bike use. And one person wrote to specifically request a restriction on vehicle size at Mattole beach.

Recreation Development and Facilities (178 comments)

This is the largest single category of public comments, comprising 178 all together. Some were fairly general, but others offered specific suggestions, such as locations of trails, facilities desired, or level of development. Among the total, twenty-seven comments emphasized maintaining a relatively low level of development with a rustic or primitive theme. A few of these comments are included here:

“Visitor services should be kept to a minimum and campgrounds developed or expanded only as demand requires; again, less is more.”

“No more ‘improvements’—no hook ups, no more picnic tables—no showers etc. I want it to look like it did before you put picnic tables in, but too late I guess for that.”

“I believe the primitive facilities currently in place should not be upgraded. We have many parks in the region that appeal to tourist comforts. Having this area remain in a primitive state will also fill an important recreational need. This small vestige of original coastline, despite its past human use, is the closest to pristine coastlands we have. As such it should be treasured and kept as close to its original state as possible for its ecological, scientific, educational and recreational value.”

Thirty-one comments focused on trails, including singletrack trails for bicycles. Many of these suggested improving trails and providing better trail markings and maps. One person suggested more loop trails, another hoped to see more walking trails close to the Shelter Cove Road. One letter suggested prohibiting mountain bike use in the King Range WSAs, while others suggested bikes can be compatible with wilderness values, that blaming cyclists for trail problems

is unfair, and offered maintenance ideas that could help maintain trails under a variety of uses. Some of these suggestions are included here:

“More walking trails closer to Shelter Cove Road, especially ‘nature walks,’ with noteworthy species, sights or geology marked. This would be greatly appreciated by many of us here in Whitethorn.”

“Additional foot trails, i.e., from Chemise Mt. to beach (via new Chinqapin trail?) — more possibility of trail loops. Trail to access Bear Creek via Tolkan camp.”

“We request that the plan prohibit mountain bike use on trails in the proposed King Range Wilderness as described in Representative Mike Thompson and Senator Barbara Boxer's California Wild Heritage Act of 2002. This is important for the following reasons: 1. Most mountain bicycling currently occurs outside of the proposed wilderness. 2. Many of the trails in the region are steep and highly erosive. Wet-season use is particularly damaging. 3. In areas such as Lake Tahoe and Downieville where mountain bikes have become popular they are actually quite dangerous to other recreationists, especially to people on foot. It only takes one near-miss with a mountain bike to become paranoid around blind curves. This is not conducive to the type of peace and solitude we should expect in many parts of the King Range NCA. We must preserve the region's peace and solitude by prohibiting mountain bikes before they become popular. 4. While we understand that the BLM cannot manage its lands based on proposed legislation, if you ban mountain bike use now before it is even remotely popular this will spare you a great deal of trouble when the California Wild Heritage Act passes.”

“IMBA encourages the BLM to plan to provide new and better bicycling opportunities through its King Range NCA Plan. This is the first action item in the new National Mountain Bicycling Strategic Action Plan. We particularly support the creation of single track trails. Narrow trails, as opposed to roads that can handle automobiles or ATVs, provide the greatest satisfaction to most cyclists. Narrow trails can be sustainably constructed to meet a wide level of bicycling skill levels, from beginner to expert. Most BLM lands have a significant array of roads, and few roadless areas and trails. Because bicyclists value traveling in more natural, primitive places, we support the maintenance of roadless conditions wherever they exist. We also encourage the restoration of roadless conditions where possible and appropriate. Toward this end, we encourage the conversion of some roads into singletrack trails.”

Thirty-seven comments addressed roads as a facilities or development issue. Several requested that no new roads be constructed, and/or the existing roads be maintained but not upgraded. In a similar vein, a number of comments suggested that the BLM remove roads where possible, often to address environmental degradation resulting from traffic, or to change the timing of seasonal road closures to better reflect environmental conditions. Three people mentioned that road access to the King Range is currently difficult but did not want it changed, as the poor access might be helping to reduce use levels and/or traffic. A few sample comments are included here:

“We also request that new road construction be prohibited, except as needed to fulfill your legal obligation to inholders.”

“One other note on roads: The roads in the King Range are open on April 1 and close on November 1 to prevent road damage during the rainy months. But I feel that open period is too long. The King Range always receives significant rainfall in April, and in some years the rains can last into May. October is usually fairly dry, but we do get enough rainfall in some years to warrant earlier road closures than Nov. 1. The roads in the King Range should not open before May 1st and should close by October 15th to avoid damage to roads and surrounding environments.”

“Of course BLM as well as the County of Humboldt will be under more pressure to provide better roads for resident and visitor access. However, there is an old Taoist saying, ‘bad roads make good countryside.’ No need to ‘improve roads.’ Better to spend money ‘putting roads to bed.’ The revisited transportation plan could emphasize more road removal.”

Other people wanted to see improved road access, construction and/or maintenance. One suggested resurfacing Shelter Cove Road; another wished to see Kings Peak Road paved; a third advocated unlocking the Smith-Etter gate. A participant at a public meeting specified that rough roads should be maintained as “separators” (i.e., to keep regular cars out while allowing 4WDs/OHV through) and managed as primitive backcountry roadways leading to particular destinations or attractions. A discussion group at one public meeting recommended changing one-way roads to loops to improve traffic flows, and several people wrote about the need for better pull-outs for slow vehicles. A few made specific maintenance suggestions, including the following:

“Changes I'd like to see: much more sediment reduction on the dirt road system throughout the King Range, by installing ditch relief culverts closer together, rolling dips where appropriate and more outslowing to reduce outside berms.”

Other comments included road safety, pedestrian or bicycle safety in particular, and a need for better road signs. One person wrote about the adverse impacts of too many road closures on access for fire prevention and suppression.

As a separate issue from roads, a group of five comments highlighted parking as an issue to be addressed—in particular the need for additional parking on holidays. Better parking for horse trailers and at Black Sands Beach specifically was also mentioned. Three other comments suggested using a shuttle service to alleviate parking problems and traffic in the King Range.

Fifty-three comments related to campgrounds and other recreation sites. A substantial number of these focused on maintaining the primitive character of many sites in the King Range, without any further development or improvement:

“We don't want RV campsites. We want the type of tourists that are interested in a wilderness experience in a primitive style.”

“I would like the campground to remain primitive—it should reflect conservation.”

“Outhouses, potable water, trash, recycling bins—everything that is there should remain as it is. No more improvement.”

Furthermore, a few people suggested that some of the existing campgrounds should be made more primitive, or could have a walk-in only section, so that some campers could get away from vehicles without requiring a long pack-in trip. The camp at the mouth of the Mattole was specified by one writer as a good candidate for this kind of change.

Camper at Nadelos Campground



In contrast, a large number of comments desired improved or additional facilities at recreation sites. Quite a few of these specified improved (or “real”) bathrooms and trash receptacles. Other suggestions included improving access to beach areas at Mal Coombs and Little Black Sands beach, better sites to camp with horses, somewhat-developed pack-in campsites, and a new “drive-in” access campground along the coast, perhaps near Shelter Cove. One person hoped to see a tent-trailer or small cabin camp set up near Bridge Creek to house summer interns or workers, and another person requested installing a coin-operated shower at some of the camps. One organization wrote requesting more bicycle-friendly facilities and camping opportunities.

Three additional comments related specifically to backcountry sites, including Big Flat; one suggested that improved recreation facilities elsewhere could relieve use pressure on the backcountry primitive areas; a second wanted to see fewer temporary driftwood shelters on the coast; and a third argued that Big Flat should be recognized as a natural gathering area in the backcountry and managed as such, with a bit more development than the rest of the wilderness area is allowed to accommodate the higher use levels. This last commenter also suggested considering the driftwood shelters as “folk architecture.”

Six comments identified sources of fresh potable water as key development issues at a number of sites, including Big Flat, Mattole Beach, and Tolkán and Horse Mountain camps. These water sources were cited as critical both for drinking water and for fire prevention/suppression.

Finally, twelve comments offered suggestions relating to information and/or interpretation facilities and signs. The BLM Project Office and Visitor Center at Whitethorn received praise, with one person wanting to see it open on weekends and holidays. Some participants would like more interpretive signs in the King Range (particularly locally-produced ones), such as at

trailheads or other sites; others requested less signage. Several people would like to see an interpretive trail, with relatively easy access for wheelchairs or strollers, including labeled plants and information on the ecological systems in the King Range. One writer described a proposal for a new interpretive facility:

“The InfoBarn: Restore the big barn at the BLM: make it rain-proof, put in skylights or dormers for light, and a rough plank-floor. Keep the barn ambiance. Lots of visitors from urban/suburban areas have never been in a funky old barn before, and will be thrilled by the experience. Use the barn as a natural history, science and education center, with displays and exhibits, books and science journals, laboratory benches and (some) 100X and 10x microscopes.”

Recreation Use Levels (76 comments)

Seventy-six comments expressed concern about increasing recreation use levels (from the growing number of visitors) and the effect on the King Range. Sixteen of these addressed effects of overuse on visitor experience, such as a sense of congestion, trash, and crowding—worries the area will be “loved to death” like the Yosemite Valley. Some examples read:

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Find ways to curb the projected visitor growth rates—can prevent high impact and provide a better experience for visitors.

“The more hikers, the more poop, trash, fires, bears, etc. happens. NO MORE!! I used to [visit] often—not any more because of too many tourists!”

“Trailhead quotas might be necessary to protect the quality of the experience. Overuse could easily degrade the wilderness experience.”

Nine additional comments focused on the effects of overuse on resources and environmental quality, particularly wildlife and wilderness values:

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Too much camping at creek mouths—impacts wildlife.

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Minimize user days thru public relations (outreach)—emphasize other values of KRNCA that deserve recognition (e.g. wildlife, wilderness).

“Visitors should be able to enjoy KRNCA, but not damage it through overuse or inappropriate use. For example, wildlife, e.g., pupping seals, feeding shorebirds, are harassed by unleashed dogs.”

Nearly half of the comments in this category, thirty-six in all, advocated some kind of management of use to reduce impacts. Some of these simply suggested managing numbers of visitors; others had more specific ideas:

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Regulating number of people hiking the Lost Coast Trail—permit system? Heavy use impacts resources and social—need limits. Also need to connect coastal trail north and south around Shelter Cove.

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Seasonal access to reduce impacts as use increases (trails and other environmental impacts)

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Keep some zones/visitor use areas rugged - maybe even make less accessible in some areas while facilitating use in others.

“Keep permits in place for all who use it. Consider a carrying capacity and use lottery for permits.”

“Limit numbers hiking on beach at any given time with priority given to residents.”

“Managing recreational impacts to the King Range through limitations on group size, commercial outfitter/packer services and development of recreational facilities: Recreational usage of the King Range NCA is growing rapidly, and the Management Plan must guide actions that ensure that recreational impacts will be minimized.”

Taking a somewhat different direction than the rest of these comments, one writer expressed a caution regarding use restrictions:

“When facing a situation of over-use of trails, land managers should employ management methods that do not discriminate among trail use types. Restrictions should not apply narrowly to cyclists, equestrians or hikers, and instead should apply to all non-motorized user groups collectively.”

Ten additional comments expressed specific concern with the issue of group size, particularly at the mouth of the Mattole River. These all suggested that large groups, such as the recent Rainbow gatherings, should be restricted or discouraged, due to heavy impacts on sensitive environments, traffic, and local community character. Several also advocated not allowing fireworks to be set off so as not to attract large crowds, and a few people recommended continuing a policy of not allowing commercial outfitters to lead groups over holiday weekends.

Recreation Fees (9 comments)

Nine comments addressed fees at the King Range, specifically keeping them low or non-existent. Several specified that local residents should have free day use access. Two others suggested that commercial groups should pay higher fees than individual users, particularly to cover the extra services that large groups might require. One comment recommended that there should be no fee at Mattole Beach.

Interpretation and Education (62 comments)

Sixty-two comments encouraged more interpretation and education programs. Some of these were quite general, others specified more information needed on different access points to the King Range, changes in management and use policies, natural history, and use by Native Americans. Several people suggested having an introductory video available for new visitors (at King Range facilities and/or on the internet) to familiarize them with the area and its conditions. In addition, five comments involved more information on safety concerns, such as the following:

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Concerned about fire in area—endangering community? Especially concerned that so many more visitors are coming, may not know how to prevent fires—BLM responsibility to protect community.

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Provide more information to public—make sure public is aware of personal responsibility, also risks for hunting, distance to medical aid, waves, etc.

Interpretive Signs at Mal Coombs Park



A group of sixteen comments emphasized the role of interpretation and education in encouraging a responsible low-impact use ethic among residents and visitors, following the theme of “leave no trace.” Many of these particularly focused on the increase in visitors and a need for better understanding about the effects of humans in the backcountry, including trash, sanitation concerns, and respect for both the natural world and others’ experience of it. Several specified the use of on-site information to get the word out:

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Keep education as a tool to minimize impacts of recreation, such as trailhead kiosks, use of internet, back country rangers and other law enforcement programs.

“Keep it basic—enhance wilderness experience by posting “no-trace” ethic requirements at trailheads.”

This leads into a second group of sixteen comments that addressed education facilities, displays, and other materials. Many suggested continued or more educational and interpretive signs at trailheads, on trails, etc., but several cautioned against over-signing. One person suggested making tide charts available with instructions on how to use them. One writer urged the BLM to be sensitive to portraying the local communities’ perspectives on the King Range in interpretive materials, particularly their role in helping to restore the area’s ecological systems. Another gave an example from Colorado of educational materials for trails that help to promote responsible riding among mountain bikers. A few other specific suggestions include the following:

[paraphrased from a public meeting:] Interpretive nature trail with easy access—access for wheelchairs, strollers etc., information about threatened and endangered species (with labeled plants), information on keeping access low-impact, etc. [Intended] for those who can't access wilder areas, as well as an introduction for those who will be going farther in.

“If the King Range is the showcase of the BLM, then let its science centers be a showcase for life, geology and good land-management information.”

“A northern resource center conveniently co-operated by the Middle Mattole Conservancy, BLM and locals with library and community/visitor information center near Honeydew.”

A third group of fifteen comments recommended the use of “in-person” education and interpretation, with a wide variety of suggestions. Several suggested tapping local expertise in education efforts, through guided walks, volunteer programs or school visits. Others mentioned the importance of rangers, both at the Visitor Center and in the backcountry, for providing useful information and advice. One writer suggested connecting with local schools in southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino counties to offer classes or programs for students, while another identified nearby universities as sources of advanced degree students looking for research projects that could complement King Range educational programs. Volunteer trailwork programs were also mentioned as effective educational experiences.

4.1.3 Community Issues

Community Involvement and Collaboration (48 comments)

Forty-eight comments related to community involvement and collaboration with BLM's management of the King Range. Twelve of these stressed the importance of maintaining the existing good relationship and coordination with local communities. Specific suggestions included working together on fire protection and prevention, coordinating with private landowners on rescues and litter removal, involving local volunteers on King Range projects, and partnering to raise funds. Keeping the communities informed and involved, as well as “playing down the image of ‘federal government’ management,” was the overall theme of these comments. One writer requested that the BLM continue to recognize and encourage community use of several parks along the periphery of the King Range, such as the Mouth of the Mattole, Honeydew Creek, and A.W. Way camps.

A larger group of comments, 36 in all, focused more specifically on collaborative projects between the BLM and non-profits, community groups and other organizations. These covered a range of projects from environmental education to ecological restoration, and encouraged the BLM to continue supporting these kinds of collaborative efforts. Quite a few cited existing efforts between local organizations and the BLM to restore the Mattole River watershed and fisheries as a particularly successful joint effort that has served as a model for similar kinds of projects around the nation. Several people suggested using local experts to assist with management, regulation, and/or interpretation of the area. Nature walks were mentioned several times as venues for local involvement with educating both tourists and other locals (particularly students) about the area. Others called for more programs for area students, both

in schools and out on the King Range, to promote environmental values and scientific study. A few representative comments include:

[Paraphrased from a public meeting:] Partnerships and education: guided hikes, web sites, presentations at local schools and communities on ecological values—reach the young people. Also involve community in trail work and other projects, and develop visitor center in towns (not trailheads) with local students and others to work in.

[Paraphrased from a public meeting:] Opportunities with local schools to promote values of KRNCA (i.e., forestry as monoculture vs. restoration/ecology/sustainability)—provide facilities for learning (i.e., living classrooms outdoors).

“EPIC encourages the BLM to work with non-governmental organizations and local schools to remove invasive species, including the California Native Plant Society, Mattole Restoration Council, and others.”

Community Social/Economic Impacts (39 comments)

Related to the above group, 39 comments highlighted concerns or suggestions regarding the social and/or economic impacts of BLM activities on local communities. Eleven of these encouraged consideration of local businesses in decisions about hiring and work contracts, often recommending that locals be given some kind of preference. This would both boost the local economy and build stronger networks between the BLM and local communities. Others suggested encouraging tourists to patronize local businesses and/or support greater local development of visitor services. One suggested listing local businesses, services, entertainment opportunities, etc. on the BLM’s website.

More than half of the comments in this category were directed at the issue of community character. While a few of these promoted economic sustainability of the area, with tourism framed as creating more economic opportunity, the majority voiced concerns about negative impacts of increased visitation on the local sense of place. Several people seemed to feel that local towns derive little economic benefit from tourists, yet bear the costs of more traffic, crowding, or having to deal with “‘urban’ people who don’t understand how their actions may impact local property owners.” One writer encouraged the BLM to be sensitive to local culture in both their management actions and interpretation, as local understanding of the area may differ significantly from the agency’s own perceptions. This sentiment is reflected in the following comments:

[Paraphrased from a local meeting:] Local culture is more important than allowable uses by public and large, economic opportunities. Maintain character of local communities as opposed to “gateways to KRNCA.”

“Less advertising. There are communities that WANT tourism (such as Ferndale)—this [Petrolia] is NOT one of them. This community values scenic beauty without recreation or tourist dollars. This community values quiet, serenity, solitude. Those values need to be respected.”

Three comments suggested creating some sort of system for prioritizing use or access for locals before that of the general public. One specified that the Mattole River area should remain

“resident friendly.” The other two, both paraphrased from public meetings, suggested the following:

Establish different permit systems for local uses vs. outside visitation (e.g., annual pass or “neighborhood” sticker on car).

“Grandfathering” of uses with local community, flexibility on certain restrictions.

4.1.4 Natural and Cultural Resources

Vegetation/Ecosystems (90 comments)

Ninety comments concerned either vegetation or ecosystems in general, including plants, animals, and other aspects of the physical environment. (Wildlife-only comments were placed in their own category, described below.) Nearly half of these focused on restoration of native flora and fauna, including grasses, Roosevelt elk, and aquatic species. Particular types of habitat such as riparian zones or open meadows were singled out by a few individuals as needing restoration. Several also stressed the importance of continuing to work cooperatively with local groups involved in collaborative restoration efforts:

“BLM should also seek cooperative management partnerships with neighboring landowners and local non-profit organizations, including the Mattole Restoration Council, Mattole Salmon Group, and others, to work towards landscape-scale restoration of the forests and watersheds.”



A particular issue identified in these scoping comments is the removal and restoration of former roads. These were cited as possible sources of erosion into watercourses, causing various types of environmental problems. An example suggests restoration attention needed at a specific roadway:

“The Telegraph Ridge road beyond Kinsey Ridge trailhead should be put to bed. That is an old and misplaced logging road. It washes out each rainy season and is thus a continuous source of sedimentation. If it is deemed necessary to provide fire access in that area, a ridgetop shaded fuel break would be more effective and appropriate.”

The BLM was encouraged to decommission and remove roads where possible and continue with their rehabilitation back to a more natural state.

Six comments suggested a need for greater monitoring, inventorying, and/or scientific research on the ecological systems in the King

Range. In addition, a large group of comments mentioned the importance of long-term ecological integrity and sustainability in the area. Here are a few examples:

“Issue of balance; favor ecological model and solitude over recreation and other uses; willing to have restrictions to protect ecological values.”

“Intact ecosystems - minimize ecological fragmentation.”

“As an amateur botanist, avid hiker and backpacker, I encourage you to protect the biodiversity of this area and its wilderness values. And as someone who cares deeply about the health of our planet, I encourage you to protect this pristine area for our clean air and water, rich wildlife, and for future generations. Thank you for managing responsibly.”

Wildlife (36 comments)

Thirty-six comments identified protection of wildlife as a key concern. Several of these were fairly general, simply requesting that wildlife be given maximum consideration in management, particularly in light of increased visitation in the King Range. A few mentioned connections to other protected areas in the region, which should be recognized as wildlife corridors and managed in a way compatible with that role.

As suggested in the previous discussion of ecosystems, roughly three-quarters of the wildlife comments suggested reintroduction of particular native animal species, mostly Roosevelt elk. This species' role in the ecosystem as a large herbivore was cited by several people, as well as the possibility of working cooperatively with local landowners to reestablish a population in the King Range. A letter from a local organization, EPIC, gives a detailed description of the issue:

“EPIC believes the BLM should explore the feasibility of reintroducing Roosevelt elk to the northern and central portions of the King Range. The herd of Roosevelt elk that occupies the Sinkyone State Park and southern portion of the King Range has made a remarkable recovery, but the species remains extirpated throughout the majority of its historical range. There are limited public lands in which reintroduction of Roosevelt elk is possible, and the northern and central portions of the King Range are among the most suitable anywhere. EPIC urges the BLM to examine this possibility and implement a program to reestablish the Roosevelt elk in the central and northern portions of the King Range if it proves feasible.”

Other species mentioned for possible reintroduction to the King Range include marten, fishers, wild turkeys and boar for hunting, and California condors.

Finally, several comments echoed the above call for greater scientific studies and/or monitoring to be done on wildlife in the area, including raptors, carnivores, and songbirds. One writer suggested these projects could address possible impacts from overuse of the KRNCA. Another specified that “two small areas containing local rare butterfly populations should be protected.”

Water/Fisheries (28 comments)

Twenty-eight comments targeted issues relating to water or fisheries management. The majority of these stressed the importance of maintaining both water quality and quantity, including sufficient habitat conditions for fish and other aquatic species. Many singled out the Mattole River and estuary as needing attention, particularly concern that too much water was being taken from the watershed, leaving insufficient water in the dry season; an example follows:

“Protection and restoration of the Mattole River estuary/lagoon: The mouth, estuary and lagoon of the Mattole River are critical to the life history of the Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). Currently, the estuary suffers from multiple cumulative impacts, including excessive sediment inputs, high water temperatures and a lack of complex instream habitat structure and riparian canopy. The BLM should commit to specific goals for estuary restoration and protection, including the retention of riparian forests, restoration of in-stream fish habitat (including the enhancement of cold water pools within the mainstem), and protective measures to prevent the future export of water from the estuary/lagoon system.”

A number of other comments raised questions more generally about watershed management and restoration. A few were concerned about adverse effects on water stemming from recreation uses, such as concentrated camping use near the mouths of creeks in the backcountry, and possible contamination of these areas with human waste. One person specifically raised the issue of marijuana growers affecting water quality and quantity. In addition, several management suggestions were made with regard to road or facilities maintenance, such as water drainage off Lighthouse Road or possible contamination of Bridge Creek from BLM's equipment yard.

Threatened and Endangered Species (5 comments)

Five comments suggested special attention be given to threatened and endangered species. One specified that grazing and recreation uses should be managed so as not to damage a population of *Layia carnosa* near the mouth of the Mattole River. Another focused on prioritizing the reintroduction of rare or endangered species to the area, as well as protection of existing populations. The overall sentiment is well summed up by the following comment:

“The BLM should prioritize the protection of imperiled species in the King Range and should continue and expand its research work on the status and distribution of rare aquatic creatures and wildlife in the area, including the Cape Mendocino snail and Humboldt marten. BLM should work with Humboldt State University and other researchers to advance scientific understanding and knowledge of the natural diversity in the King Range.”

Marine and Coastal Resources (10 comments)

Ten comments expressed concerns for marine and coastal resources in the King Range. Several identified tidepools as needing better protection and public understanding/respect, particularly at Shelter Cove. One comment requested that abalone fishing be retained. Four specified that oil spills constitute a special threat to the coastline, particularly from possible off-shore drilling leases. And one individual suggested that the King Range be recognized as a Pacific coastal fish sanctuary, giving formal recognition to the ocean resources as well as those on land.

Fire Management (51 comments)

Fifty-one comments addressed fire management, protection and prevention. Roughly one-fourth of these were fairly general, expressing concern about fire danger in the area and the BLM's role in protecting resources and property against damage. One person suggested writing a "pre-fire plan," and quite a few highlighted the importance of giving natural resources maximum protection while treating areas for fire-related concerns. Two people raised the issue of aesthetics in fire management, maintaining a "wilderness" quality in the landscape while protecting against fire danger. One letter eloquently outlined the role of fire in a general sense:

"Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem. We envision the King Range of the future as wild, but not necessarily the same mosaic we see today. Prioritize fish, wildlife and aquatics in fire treatment areas. A 'let it burn' policy that protects human life and property should be developed. The beauty, species diversity and human opportunity to reflect on death and life after fire are public values that reach far beyond the scope of this scoping process."



A number of comments stressed the need for fuel load reduction to help avoid catastrophic fires, including such management activities as clearing brush or thinning small trees to reduce highly flammable understory vegetation. Several emphasized that this work should utilize ecologically sensitive methods, in particular no use of herbicides, and not to allow the cutting of larger timber under the guise of fuels reduction. A specific tool mentioned by six comments is prescribed burning, particularly its role in both maintaining natural habitat and reducing fuel loads. However, several commenters expressed concern about the risks involved with prescribed burns. One letter sums up this theme particularly well:

"The California Department of Forestry's Forest Resources Assessment Program rates many areas, such as Prosper Ridge, Wilder Ridge and Mill Creek as having 'high' or 'very high' levels of hazardous fuels buildup. These conditions occur on both private and BLM lands, and it is critical that fuels build-up is addressed across ownerships. The Council

encourages BLM to develop a formal hazardous fuels reduction program that incorporates mechanical thinning, prescribed burning, and maintenance of historical grassland areas. This program must be ecologically appropriate—no clearcutting and no herbicide application.”

Quite a few people also pointed to the need for greater education on fire safety for both residents and visitors to the area. Several voiced concerns about campfires causing a larger fire through carelessness or lack of knowledge about the fire danger in the area, particularly as use levels increase; one cited the BLM’s responsibility to protect local communities from problems caused by visitors. Others emphasized working with private landowners in fire protection and prevention:

“Obviously population growth at Shelter Cove and continued subdividing of parcels in the Mattole valley means that the BLM along with CDF will be under greater pressure to provide protection from wildfires in what is now called the ‘urban-forest interface.’ The revisited fire management plan may emphasize working with private landowners living on parcels near the boundaries of KRNCA to ‘fire proof’ their residences and outbuildings based on excellent guidelines established by CDF. More money spent on such outreach to private landowners means less money needed to ‘fight’ wildfires.”

In addition, seven comments addressed specific management activities for the prevention or suppression of fires. These included considering fire management needs when decommissioning roads, such as providing needed fire breaks and maintaining access for fire suppression. One writer also cited the lack of water at Tolkán and Horse Mountain campgrounds as adding to the fire danger, and suggested digging wells and adding rock around fire pits at campsites to help alleviate the risk.

Historic and Cultural Resources (14 comments)

Fourteen comments urged continued protection of historic and cultural resources in the planning area, such as “Please use every law on the books to ensure full recognition and protection of indigenous and other cultural sites.” Several specified Native American sites, such as the middens on the beach, and uses of the land as needing better preservation and interpretation. One individual requested that fencing around beach middens be removed. Spanish Flat was called out as an area where cultural sites were in particular danger of degradation or destruction. One person wrote a lengthy comment and request for additional research into place names at the King Range, specifically possible connections to Hawaii.

4.1.5 Other Public and Commercial Uses

Grazing/Range Management (16 comments)

Sixteen comments addressed range management on the King Range. Most of these called for a reduction or elimination of livestock grazing, often referring to this use as “not natural” or incompatible with the primitive character of the area. In addition, several advocated recognizing the importance of native grasses and using management efforts to discourage invasive/exotic species and restore native grassland habitat. One comment suggested the possible utility of grazing as a management tool:

“We would like to see the plan propose that grazing continue only in existing allotments, or be used elsewhere in a limited fashion for fire or noxious weed management.”

A local organization again singled out the grazing allotment at Spanish Flat as needing priority for closure, due to damage that cattle grazing may be causing to cultural sites.

Forestry/Logging (53 comments)

Fifty-three comments voiced concerns related to trees or timber harvest within the planning area. A large number of these stressed the importance of restricting or prohibiting logging of commercial timber or large-diameter trees. Many of these comments added the caveat that smaller-sized trees could be cut for the purposes of fire management or habitat restoration; a typical comment is as follows:

“The law that created the King Range National Conservation Area allows logging, but does not say what kind of logging may occur. I would like to see the new National Conservation Area plan limit tree cutting to only small trees along roads and near communities for fire safety, or in previously logged areas to improve plant and wildlife habitat.”

Roughly 10% of the comments in this category specifically requested protection for old growth forests as a crucial part of protecting the area’s watersheds and ecological diversity. Several others raised the issue of forest diseases, specifically sudden oak death, and suggested washing facilities be installed to ensure this disease does not make inroads into the King Range.

Special Forest Products (11 comments)

Eleven comments were received in regards to special forest products and their collection or use, with the highest number of comments specifically aimed at mushroom collecting. Several appreciated being able to collect mushrooms and encouraged sustainable use of these and other forest products as long as they were “carefully monitored ([with] adaptive responses incorporated in plan).” Others echoed this latter concern more strongly, voicing the need for better understanding of the ecological impacts of mushroom collection. One comment suggested a permitting process for mushroom and wildcraft materials (such as beargrass) collection (note that such a system is already in place), two others wanted no commercial extraction of mushrooms to be allowed. One person advocated the cutting of firewood.

4.1.6 Administrative

Land Tenure, Realty, Private Property (29 comments)

Twenty-nine comments addressed issues pertaining to land tenure, realty and/or private property. Overall, these highlighted the need for definition of the BLM’s acquisition policy:

“The Management Plan provides BLM an ideal opportunity to articulate a policy guiding any future land acquisition for parcels within, adjacent or proximate to the King Range NCA.”

A little over half of these related to acquisition of land within the King Range boundary. Several suggested the need to purchase remaining private inholdings to unify the region's management, recreation access and reduce the threat of private development. Two specified acquisition of lots in Shelter Cove to help alleviate development pressure and to provide more public access to the coast.

In contrast, some comments indicated a sense that public ownership in the area needs to be balanced with private holdings, a concern that private landowners are being "squeezed out." A few directed the BLM to use conservation easements or other alternatives to acquisition as a method to protect aesthetics or link trails. One writer suggested an additional benefit from this approach:

"Conservation easements and living trust on surrounding private parcels introduce to the public/private timber land owners a new way of managing not just parcels but landscapes, collectively and cooperatively."

Four comments advocated specific acquisitions outside of the King Range boundary. These included expanding the boundary or otherwise linking adjacent State Parks to the KRNCA, acquiring beach properties north of the Mattole River, and creating a wildlife corridor to Six Rivers National Forest.

Eight comments were received that dealt more with the BLM's relationship with private property owners in the area. Several specified that the BLM should only acquire land from willing sellers. Two others voiced their appreciation for the continued access allowed to entitled private inholders, although a third person wanted air access to Big Flat closed. One person called generally for respect of private property rights, and another suggested that the BLM should:

"Increase awareness of beneficial use of private inholdings: rescues, litter removal, etc. Also demonstrates good neighbor policy to public."

Wilderness and All Other Special Designations (67 comments)

Sixty-seven comments focused attention specifically on designation of wilderness or other types of special areas. Among these, many simply stressed the importance of continuing to manage parts of the King Range as wilderness areas, particularly the western slope and roadless areas:

"Create a wilderness preserve—let nature manage the King Range—'less is more' philosophy. Our planet is shrinking fast . . . we need to honor nature and our entire planet and not assume we know how to 'manage' anything better than she does."



A few people identified concerns about wilderness management: at a public meeting, one group suggested that accommodations are needed to allow continued restoration work within areas of wilderness designation; another person wrote that the historic uses of the landscape, including ranching, off-road vehicle use, and private property ownership, ought to preclude it from being considered a wilderness.

Nearly half of these referred specifically to the designated Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and their management; a typical comment follows:

“I understand that the King Range comprises two wilderness study areas, the 34,000 acre King Range Wilderness Study Area and the 4,500 acre Chemise Mountain Wilderness Study Area. The BLM has wisely closed many roads adjacent to these study areas, effectively making a 41,000 acre wilderness, which could become law under the California Wild Heritage Act. It is imperative that the BLM manage the King Range in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act.”

Twelve comments advocated some change to the areas formally recommended for wilderness status in the King Range, either designating more extensive areas or modifying the existing wilderness proposal before Congress so as to allow certain kinds of recreation use, such as bicycling.

Finally, several comments suggested other types of special designations, including Wild and Scenic River status:

“BLM should evaluate streams and rivers for their eligibility and suitability under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including the BLM stretch of the Mattole River, Bear Creek, Honeydew Creek, Horse Mountain Creek, Big Flat Creek, and others.”

In addition, one person wrote suggesting the King Range should have a scenic by-way designation, another countered by writing, “Never do Disneyland-drive-by-wilderness ‘national scenic drive’ thru Mattole/KRNCA.”

Environmental Safety and Health (33 comments)

Thirty-three comments related to various aspects of environmental safety and health at the King Range NCA. The largest group of these, reflecting fourteen different comments, was concerned with sanitation issues, including trash and human waste. Several specific areas (Big Flat, Buck Creek, Lighthouse Road, and backcountry camping locations) were singled out as needing

attention in this regard. Some commenters suggested improved facilities would help solve the problem; others highlighted increased use levels as the cause of the problem, and recommended better education and outreach to specific groups (such as surfers at Big Flat). One writer expressed particular concern about human impacts on water quality.

Another large group of comments (thirteen) called for the BLM to avoid using chemicals such as pesticides or herbicides in its management programs and focus on non-toxic solutions to habitat restoration and fuels reduction projects. An example of this concern reads:

“Please do not use chemicals in your removal of invasive weeds. There are several highly effective ways to eliminate these species without introducing toxic chemicals into this pristine wilderness.”

In addition, there were a number of comments addressing pollution and hazardous materials and their effects on the resources of the King Range. These included concerns about spills from possible off-shore oil drilling, and a question about aluminum and/or lead contamination from military chaff, possibly released over some parts of the KRNCA during Air Force and/or Navy training runs in the 1980s. One letter from a member of the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District raised the issue of air quality or regional haze. And one writer specified that the BLM’s “Headquarters needs to be more sensitive about petroleum products reaching Bridge Creek salmonids.”

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services (19 comments)

Nineteen comments addressed issues related to law enforcement and emergency services. Several pointed to a need for additional patrolling or law enforcement; in one case specifically to protect vehicles, another singled out the campground at Mattole as requiring greater policing. In addition, several members of the public expressed concern about illegal marijuana being grown on BLM lands. One person suggested a community watch program should be set up to assist with law enforcement needs. A few people wrote about specific situations that should be addressed by stepped-up enforcement efforts, including use of motorized vehicles in unauthorized areas, and poachers collecting too many animals or species that are off-limits to hunting. One suggestion from a public meeting was to:

“Hold visitors accountable and personally culpable for damage caused by irresponsible behavior (such as starting fires).”

In contrast, another commenter suggested, “Fewer policing actions and more education; promote backcountry ranger program, avoid heavy handed approach.” Several others also mentioned the importance of taking a non-confrontational approach to law enforcement. The backcountry ranger program was cited by a number of individuals, particularly lauding that the rangers patrol on foot (one suggested they could ride horses) rather than in vehicles.

Two comments addressed the need for emergency services, specifically that these should be designed to accommodate the increasing numbers of visitors with unknown levels of familiarity with the risks involved at the King Range. One of these even volunteered their help:

“I would like to part of or help to develop a search and rescue team. I think a quick response to an emergency (which are common in the King Range) would be an important addition to the future safety of visitors.”

Promotion/Advertising (11 comments)

Eleven comments were aimed at the issue of promoting or advertising the King Range as a destination for tourists. The majority of these advocated less or no promotion of the area by the BLM, expressing sentiments such as:

“Don't do a thing. People will come anyway, no reason to exploit the coast. No advertising! The beauty and seclusion will inevitably bring more people to live here and visit. It will happen no matter what. Why hurry it up?”

Among these comments were two suggesting that any marketing messages be aimed at those with “environmental sensitivities,” or emphasizing the King Range’s unique properties as a primitive area and the need for its preservation. The overall message of these comments was concern that additional publicity and promotion would encourage more users, causing greater impacts to the character of both the King Range environment and local communities.

Administrative (46 comments)

Forty-six comments addressed the BLM’s approach to the planning process and other administrative and management actions. Some of these represent questions asked at the public meetings that were answered in-person but also recorded; these reflect interest in the overall size of the King Range, where the boundaries lie, how the BLM manages natural resources, and the relationship between the King Range and the newly-designated California Coastal National Monument (covering rocks and islands just off-shore). One person wanted to know if the King Range and/or Arcata staff have authority to set wages for local contracts with the BLM.

A few comments and questions revolved around the issue of funding and/or revenue, including suggestions to seek university funding for resource studies (referencing the Point Reyes Bird Observatory as a model), and making the KRNCA more economically self-sustaining.

Thirteen comments related to the planning process directly. Several suggested periodic updates throughout the planning process and beyond, so that the public could stay involved with monitoring and implementing the plan. In addition, a few people had suggestions for better public outreach, such as building a mailing list to inform people of meetings throughout the planning process, and posting flyers in various overnight and day-use areas on the King Range to solicit comment from those using the areas but perhaps not attending meetings. Several people stressed the importance of implementing the plan quickly, and of considering future generations’ uses of the area as well as those of today. And several comments considered the larger landscape or watershed context of the plan, including the following:

“Although you are constrained by law to writing a management plan only for the KRNCA, you can still place management priorities and policy statements within the context of the larger landscape of the Mattole watershed, the Redwoods to the Seas corridor and the larger context of environmental changes and social changes in the northcoast basins bioregion.”

In addition, a group of eight comments emphasized continued coordination with neighboring or related agencies and jurisdictions. Two encouraged the BLM to include the public into these interagency discussions, and to balance agency preferences with public input. One specifically identified working with the:

“Resort Improvement District of Shelter Cove (“RID” of Shelter Cove), County of Humboldt, and the California Coastal Commission, to ensure the King Range is fully protected from encroaching development, noise impacts, and other effects that degrade the natural values and experience of the King Range.”

Six comments in this category were aimed at the degree or approach of BLM’s management of the King Range. Suggestions included adopting a more proactive management strategy, and setting appropriate goals to measure management’s effects and effectiveness. One request from a public meeting discussion was for a strong declaratory statement from BLM emphasizing public trust values over economic enterprise. One person wrote about a preference for the area before it was designated a National Conservation Area, another wrote of a need to overcome “existing antagonism to BLM (past actions and Feds.).” Finally, one writer recommended treating Big Flat as a special management zone, recognizing its unique function as a natural stopping place along the coast:

“I continue to argue that Big Flat is a special area within the WSA. It is a natural gathering site for backpackers, surfers, and other visitors just as it was a natural camping area for Indians who lived on the ‘Lost Coast’ for hundreds of years before the BLM took over management of the KRNCA. As you know, the Forest Service has developed special management plans for alpine lakes regions in designated wilderness areas in mountain regions because visitors are attracted to alpine lakes. In some cases the Forest Service has built compost toilets and designated campfire rings at some alpine lakes. I argue that Big Flat/Miller Flat is like some of these alpine lakes areas. My slogan for management of Big Flat is ‘don’t regulate, educate.’ Consider driftwood shacks as ‘folk architecture.’”

4.2 KEY THEMES AND PRIORITIES

Through this scoping process, several themes and priorities emerged. They are summarized below:

4.2.1 Primitive Values/Character

Public comment has generated a strong consensus opinion that people value the unique primitive character of the King Range landscape and wish to see it maintained unchanged through the next twenty years. The qualities that contribute to this primitive character include perceptions that the area is wild, relatively roadless and inaccessible, undeveloped, and not crowded. Many commenters indicated that protecting this primitive character is central to their concerns about the area. This priority given to primitive values affects almost every issue in the King Range, even as people differ as to what actions they consider compatible with the area’s character and/or what kinds of limits are necessary for its protection.

4.2.2 Recreation Use

Many people identified increasing recreation use levels and their effect on the King Range as a major concern. People seem worried that the area will be “loved to death,” becoming more crowded and degraded from overuse, and cited a variety of adverse impacts they already feel

are taking place. Several ideas for limiting use levels emerged, such as a backcountry permit system, placing use caps on certain areas (particularly the Lost Coast Trail), or otherwise dispersing users throughout the entire KRNCA, rather than concentrating use along the beach. Another suggestion was to limit or discourage large encampments such as the recent Rainbow group meetings.

Backcountry Camping



Another key issue in this section is whether multiple user groups can share trails or sections of the King Range. Some members of the public suggest that only the lowest impact recreation uses, such as hiking, backpacking, or surfing, should be allowed, again citing compatibility with the area's primitive character. Others disagree, stating that to exclude activities such as equestrian use, mountain biking, and hunting would be unfair—and point out that any type of recreation can have high or low impacts on the area, depending on how people conduct themselves. Several pointed to the problems of congestion, trash, and sanitation at some of the backcountry camps as indicating that even backpacking can have negative impacts.

This leads to a third question in this category, concerning the appropriate degree of development for King Range recreation facilities and sites. Some people want to see the camps and other recreation sites remain relatively primitive in nature; others preferred improved facilities, either for greater comfort and/or to reduce impacts on the area's resources from overuse (such as informal backcountry camps where the lack of sanitary facilities may be causing contamination of streams with human waste). The construction of temporary driftwood shelters by some visitors also raised some concern from people who feel they detract from the primitive character of the beaches.

4.2.3 Transportation/Access

There remains some disagreement about the appropriate level of motorized recreation access in the King Range. Some people regard the noise, tracks, and other disruptions from motorized vehicles as incompatible with the primitive character of the area, especially on the beaches. Others suggest that limiting motorized access unfairly excludes certain user groups, particularly older visitors or those with disabilities who may not be physically able to explore much of the

King Range under their own power. The question of motorized vehicle access extends to motorized watercraft (boats and jetskis) landing on the beaches as well.

Related to this question is the issue of how best to maintain the road system in the King Range and public access to it. Some desire the existing network to be maintained or improved, including such suggestions as maintaining some of the backcountry roads in a rough condition for four-wheel drive or OHV users, or paving certain popular roads. Opposing this sentiment were a number of people calling for stricter limits on seasonal use of certain routes, better maintenance to prevent environmental impacts from erosion, or decommissioning more roads completely. There are also some questions about road safety, particularly as visitor levels (and hence traffic levels) have increased in the area.

4.2.4 Education/Interpretation

There seems to be a large degree of agreement from the public that interpretation and education programs are important and should continue. Education programs seem to form a vital link between the King Range and local communities, and they voiced an interest both in learning more about natural resources from BLM programs as well as contributing to them as volunteers or local experts. Topics of greatest interest or need include natural history, resource management, cultural uses of the landscape by Native Americans, and fire issues.

4.2.5 Community Support/Involvement

There seems to be extensive local interest in continued involvement and collaboration with the BLM on various aspects of King Range management, particularly education and restoration projects. However, there is also a varying level of concern about socio-economic impacts, with some people interested in economic opportunities for local communities, and others cautioning against overdevelopment or becoming “gateway” communities. The plan will need to strike some sort of balance between these issues of economic stability/sustainability and community character and self-definition.

4.2.6 Resource Conservation and Management

Ecosystem restoration is a top concern among the public comments received in this scoping process. Many people stressed the importance of reintroducing native species, including the Roosevelt elk, other fur-bearing species, and native grasses. Of equal importance is an emphasis on removing or preventing the establishment of exotic weed species. Issues pertaining to water, watershed management, and fisheries are also of great interest, perhaps reflecting the area’s established commitment and involvement with salmon restoration and other watershed-level protection efforts.

4.2.7 Fire Management

There is a clear concern about fire danger in the King Range and the BLM’s role in protecting resources and property from damage. The degree of aggressiveness in fire prevention and suppression seems to be in question; some advocate maintaining road access and fuels management, others prefer a lighter touch on the land. The risk of prescribed burns causing damage counterbalances in these public comments with the benefits in maintaining natural

habitat and reducing fuel loads. There seems to be a strong call for additional fire safety education, both for visitors recreating in the King Range and for residents. Better knowledge is seen as key to better protection.

5.0 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 ISSUES NOT ADDRESSED

The following issues were raised during the scoping process but will not be addressed in the plan. Below is a list of these issues and a rationale of why they will not or cannot be addressed.

5.1.1 Congressional Wilderness Designation

Wilderness designation can only occur through an act of the U.S. Congress. The BLM was directed under the Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 to study all lands under its jurisdiction and make recommendations to Congress regarding their suitability for wilderness designation. The BLM completed this effort for the King Range in 1988 with its report, "Wilderness Recommendations, Arcata Resource Area, King Range WSA (Wilderness Study Area) and Chemise Mountain WSA." The BLM does not have the authority to make the final decision regarding whether to designate these areas as Wilderness, or how much acreage to include under the designation; these decisions require Congressional legislation. All lands in the KRNCA that meet minimal requirements for wilderness designation are administratively protected as Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM will continue to manage the WSAs to protect their wilderness values until Congress makes a final decision regarding designation.

In addition, the BLM is authorized to study new potential wilderness outside of the existing WSAs (for example, newly acquired lands, lands where resource conditions have reverted to a higher level of naturalness etc.) under Section 202 of FLPMA, and will do so in this plan.

5.1.2 Motorized Vehicle Use on the Beach

The decisions to manage the west slope backcountry for non-motorized use will be carried forward as existing decisions and not readdressed in this plan. A rationale for this decision is discussed in Section 4.3.2 below.

5.1.3 Land Acquisitions Outside of the Immediate King Range Area

The Management Plan update will identify criteria for land tenure adjustments (acquisition and disposal) on lands both within the King Range and in the immediate King Range area. Other BLM public lands in northwest California are managed under the Arcata Resource Management Plan (RMP) which lists criteria and priorities for acquisitions.

5.1.4 Giving Local Residents Priority for Public Access and Contracts

Plan decisions must provide fair and equitable access to public lands for all citizens, and cannot be discriminatory based on location of residence. Therefore, decisions regarding programs or policies such as recreation use permits, site reservations, commercial permits etc. must be equitable. The same is true for federal contracts, although issuance of contracts is an implementation action and is beyond the scope of the plan.

The Management Plan can incorporate or encourage opportunities for local residents to participate in area management, development of interpretive tours for local schools, provision of facilities for community functions, and other community-based actions.

Also, in implementing the updated plan, the BLM will seek opportunities through the federal budget process and other special programs to encourage local community involvement and benefits from King Range management. This has already been done extensively at the King Range. For example, the “Jobs in the Woods” program has allowed for cooperation and funding of local community groups and contractors to complete watershed restoration work.

5.1.5 Estuary Water Export

Water rights or diversions for rivers are under the jurisdiction of the state and are outside the scope of the plan. The plan will address criteria for the issuance of rights-of-way (including those for water pipelines) across public lands in the King Range. Any future diversion proposal that crosses public lands would also require BLM participation in an analysis of environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

5.1.6 Private Land (Inholder) Access, Including Air Access to Big Flat

Access provisions to private inholdings are based on legal rights associated with each parcel and, therefore, are addressed individually with each landowner, and not at a planning level. Access provisions must ensure reasonable access to private properties consistent with federal laws and policies including the King Range Act.

5.1.7 Offshore Drilling

Decision-making authority regarding offshore drilling rests with the State of California and the U.S. Government’s Mineral Management Service and is not under the authority of the BLM, so it is outside the scope of this plan. The BLM would comment on potential impacts from proposed leasing/drilling to the King Range at the appropriate time if leasing were proposed.

5.1.8 Military Flyovers

The Department of Defense (DOD) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have jurisdiction over the airspace above the KRNCA. If routine military flights are proposed, the BLM will work administratively with the FAA and DOD at that time to minimize the effects of these flyovers on the area.

5.1.9 Marine Sanctuary

The plan will not address the formal designation of a coastal fish or marine sanctuary, as intertidal and marine resources are under the jurisdiction of other state and federal agencies including the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Coastal Commission, the State Land Board and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

5.2 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES

The below issues are beyond the BLM's management authority to fully implement, but directly affect the KRNCA and will be addressed in the plan. The BLM will seek cooperation with those agencies with management authority to help address the issues. Plan outcomes will serve as recommendations and opportunities to work with the appropriate agency or entity to implement.

5.2.1 Boat-in and Jet-ski Access to the Backcountry Coast

The State of California has jurisdiction of the intertidal zone (beach) and immediate offshore waters. The BLM does manage motor vehicle use on the beach intertidal zone through a permit from the State Lands Commission, and will work with the state in addressing this issue.

5.2.2 Marine Resource Issues (Protection of Tidepools and other Marine Ecosystem Values)

Intertidal and marine resources are under the jurisdiction of several state and federal agencies including the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The plan will include recommendations regarding cooperating with the appropriate agencies to manage intertidal resources adjoining the KRNCA.



5.2.3 Wildlife Reintroductions (Elk, Fishers, Martins, Condors)

The California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have jurisdiction over wildlife in the KRNCA, while the BLM manages habitat. The BLM will work with these agencies to determine if suitable habitat exists for reintroduction efforts and to determine potential implementation strategies.

5.3 EXISTING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD

The KRNCA Management Plan update is building upon a 29-year history of management, planning and implementation in the KRNCA. Figure 2 highlights some of the major plans and policies that have led to the present management of the area. The summary below highlights the major decisions that will be carried forward into the new plan. A complete plan evaluation with more detailed descriptions of plans and decisions is available from the BLM Arcata Office upon request.

5.3.1 Wilderness

Wilderness studies were completed for all BLM lands as a requirement under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and recommendations have been formally submitted from the President to Congress. Therefore, these decisions cannot be changed except by Congressional action. For the KRNCA, 37,240 acres are being managed in two Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) until Congress makes the final wilderness determination through legislative action. Note that the BLM is authorized to study new potential wilderness outside of the existing WSAs (for example, newly acquired lands, lands where resource conditions have reverted to a higher level of naturalness etc.) under Section 202 of FLPMA and will do so in this plan.

Rationale: The BLM was directed under the Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to study all lands under its jurisdiction and make recommendations to Congress regarding their suitability for wilderness designation. The BLM completed this effort for the King Range in 1988 and the results are published as “Wilderness Recommendations, Arcata Resource Area, King Range WSA (Wilderness Study Area) and Chemise Mountain WSA.”

5.3.2 West Slope Motorized Vehicle Access

Decisions closing roads on the western coastal slope, including the Smith-Etter road west of the Telegraph Ridge Gate, will be carried forward in the plan. The BLM will reevaluate all other roads identified as “open, limited, or closed” to vehicle use in the 1986 Transportation Plan. The OHV designations will not affect private inholder access. BLM will continue to work with private inholders on an individual basis to provide reasonable access. Public land acquisitions made since the 1986 Transportation Plan was completed will also be evaluated for vehicle use designations.

Rationale: Keeping the west slope non-motorized is consistent with the management vision for the King Range and WSA management requirements, as well as state Coastal Zone management. Also decisions are consistent with the King Range Act, area management goals and the draft KRNCA Management Plan update planning criteria recognizing the uniqueness of the west slope of the King Range NCA as a primitive backcountry coastline and giving priority to actions that complement or enhance these values.

Vehicle designations are consistent with BLM Manual Section 8342 in that they minimize OHV use in areas with extreme natural or man-made hazards (such as abandoned roads that BLM can no longer maintain) and that they minimize damage to cultural and natural resources. The

designations in the original Transportation Plan are now 16 years old, and so should be reevaluated as per road safety, appropriate use levels, resource protection and effectiveness of road closures/limits.

The Cooskie Creek and Johnny-Jack Ridge roads in the northern portion of the King Range are designated as “limited” use routes in the Transportation Plan, but are not accessible to the general public (i.e., the public must gain permission to cross private property which has no public easements or rights-of-way to gain access to the open roadways). Strategies for equitable management of these segments will be addressed in the plan.

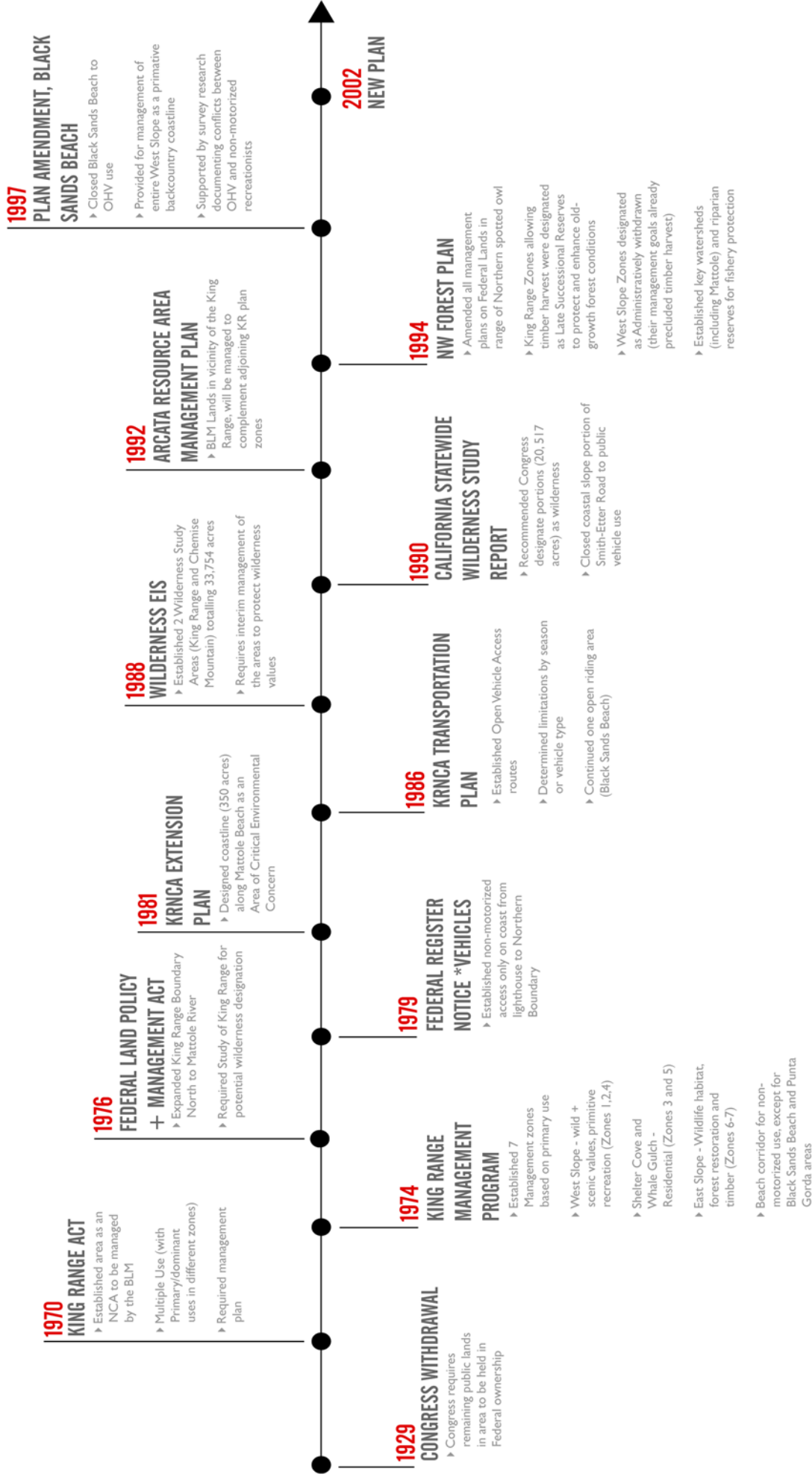
5.3.3 Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP)

BLM will carry forward the land allocations identified in the Northwest Forest Plan (late-successional reserves, riparian reserves, matrix and administratively withdrawn lands) but will evaluate boundaries for potential adjustment. The standards and guidelines outlined in the NWFP will serve as forest land health standards for this plan. The allocation acreage figures for the King Range and adjoining lands are:

- Late-successional reserves: 45,437 acres
- Administratively withdrawn: 15,688 acres
- Matrix: 142 acres (Honeydew Creek Campground parcel)

Rationale: Consideration of land allocation boundary changes in the plan will allow for innovative forest health practices within the guidelines of the NWFP. Any proposed changes would be forwarded through the Forest Plan Regional Ecosystem Office for approval.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE & PLANNING ACTIONS THAT SHAPED CURRENT MANAGEMENT OF KRNCA



5.3.4 Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines

Statewide standards and guidelines were adopted in 1997 for managing grazing on public lands administered by the BLM in California. BLM is required by statewide policy to use these standards and guidelines for evaluating rangeland health.

5.4 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

The public requested that the BLM look at possible additional acreage to be added to the Wilderness Study Areas and an evaluation of streams for possible Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. No comments/nominations were received for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) or Research Natural Areas (RNAs). However, the planning team will still consider potential designations of this type.

5.4.1 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

The BLM is required to study new potential wilderness outside of the existing WSAs under Section 202 of FLPMA. BLM will conduct a wilderness study inventory of all newly acquired public lands adjoining the King Range (Mill Creek, Squaw Creek, etc.) during this planning process to determine if they meet the criteria to be added as new Wilderness Study Areas. Also, existing lands outside the WSAs will be re-inventoried to determine if resource conditions have changed significantly to warrant their addition as WSAs.

5.4.2 Wild and Scenic River System

All streams within the King Range formal plan decision area will be studied to determine eligibility and suitability for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System under Public Law 90-542 (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act). The final decision for Wild and Scenic River designation rests with Congress.

5.4.3 ACECs/RNAs

Although no formal public nominations were received for new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or Research Natural Areas, the planning team will consider these administrative designations to give special management attention to areas with the most significant and sensitive resource values within the KRNCA. ACECs are designated to protect and call management attention to resource values (or threats) that have greater than local significance and require special management attention and resource use limitations. Currently, the KRNCA has one ACEC along the coastal corridor at Mattole Beach to protect the significant cultural values.

6.0 DRAFT PLANNING CRITERIA

The following draft “planning criteria” are intended to help guide the evaluation of alternatives and decisions in the Management Plan update and EIS. The public has been invited to review and comment on these draft criteria.

The KRNCA Management Plan update will:

- Recognize the uniqueness of the west slope of the King Range as a primitive backcountry coastline. Decisions will complement or enhance these values.
- Involve a collaborative process with other federal agencies, state and local governments, private landowners, Native Americans and others with authority or interest in resources and uses within the King Range. Specifically recognize state and county jurisdiction over wildlife and coastal resources: California Coastal Commission for the intertidal zone; California Department of Fish and Game for wildlife; Humboldt and Mendocino Counties for search and rescue; and California Department of Forestry for fire.
- Comply with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Wilderness Act, the King Range Act, the Northwest Forest Plan and other applicable laws and policies.
- Recognize and complement community values in the Lost Coast region.
- Carry forward the zoning concept of the original King Range Management Program, and existing relevant decisions from this plan and its amendments.
- Plan decisions will use best available science and data, and will be adaptive where appropriate.

Aerial Photo of Big Flat



7.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN PLANNING PROCESS

Although the BLM welcomes public input at any time during the planning process, the next official public comment period will be open upon publication of the Draft Management Plan/EIS, which is anticipated in the fall of 2003. Prior to producing the draft document, the BLM will also hold several focus group workshops to discuss planning issues and alternatives. The draft document will be distributed to elected officials, regulatory agencies, and members of the public, and will be available on the project web site (http://www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/kingrange/King_Range_Plan.html). The availability of the draft document will be announced in the *Federal Register*, and a 90-day public comment period will follow. Public meetings will be held during the 90-day period.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Draft Management Plan/EIS will be revised. A Proposed RMP/Final EIS will then be published. The availability of the proposed document will be announced in the *Federal Register*, and a 30-day public protest period will follow.

At the conclusion of the public protest period, the document will again be revised, and the Final Management Plan and Record of Decision will be published. Its availability will be announced in the *Federal Register*.

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APPENDIX A

NOI Federal Register

Highway 395 and the land is accessible from Topsy Lane and North Sunridge Drive.

Detailed information concerning the sale, including reservations, sale procedures and conditions, and planning and environmental documents, is available for review at the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, or by calling (775) 885-6115. For a period of 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the general public and interested parties may submit comments to the Manager, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701. Any adverse comments will be reviewed by the State Director, who may sustain, vacate, or modify this realty action in whole or in part. In the absence of any adverse comments, this realty action will become the final determination of the Department of Interior. The Bureau of Land Management may accept or reject any or all offers, or withdraw any land or interest in the land from sale, if, in the opinion of the authorized officer, consummation of the sale would not be fully consistent with FLPMA or other applicable laws or is determined to not be in the public interest. Any comments received during this process, as well as the commentator's name and address, will be available to the public in the administrative record and/or pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act request. You may indicate for the record that you do not wish your name and/or address be made available to the public. Any determination by the Bureau of Land Management to release or withhold the names and/or addresses of those who comment will be made on a case-by-case basis. A commentator's request to have their name and/or address withheld from public release will be honored to the extent permissible by law.

The land will not be offered for sale until at least 60 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 18, 2002.

John O. Singlaub,

Manager, Carson City Field Office.

[FR Doc. 02-26171 Filed 10-9-02; 1:36 pm]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the King Range National Conservation Area

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management; Arcata Field Office.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the King Range National Conservation Area and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to prepare an RMP with an associated EIS for the King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA), managed by the Arcata Field Office. The planning area is located in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, California. This planning activity encompasses approximately 63,000 acres of land within the National Conservation Area (NCA) boundary. The plan will fulfill the obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the King Range Act, and BLM management policies. The plan will serve to update the 1974 King Range Management Program (KRMP) and associated amendments. Decisions in the original plan and amendments that are still current will be carried forward in the new plan. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns. The public scoping process will identify planning issues, develop planning criteria, and outline a vision for area management that reflects the needs and interests of the public and protection of the areas resource values as called for by the King Range Act.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the address listed below. All public meetings will be announced through the local news media, newsletters, and the BLM web site (www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/) at least 15 days prior to the event. The minutes and list of attendees for each meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days to any participant who wishes to clarify the views they expressed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Public meetings will be held throughout the plan scoping and preparation period. Participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management

of the KRNCA public lands. In addition to the ongoing public participation process, formal opportunities for public input will be provided through comment on the alternatives and upon publication of the BLM draft RMP/EIS.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to, Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office, 1695 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521. Fax (707) 825-2301. Email comments to

CAweb330@ca.blm.gov. Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Arcata Field Office located in Arcata, California. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Arcata Field Office located in Arcata, CA during regular business hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, call (707) 825-2300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The creation of the KRNCA along with the changing needs and interests of the public necessitates a revision to the KRMP, which was completed in 1974. Various supplementary plans, amendments, and implementation of new laws have served to update the 27 year old plan. Decisions in these existing plans that are still current will be carried forward in the new plan. However, changing uses, public interests, and resource conditions indicate that it is timely to update the plan in a comprehensive manner.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by BLM personnel, other agencies, and in discussions with individuals and user groups. They represent the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. The major issue themes that will be addressed in the plan effort include: Management and protection of natural/cultural resources and primitive values; recreation/visitor use and safety; and

integrating planning and management with community, tribal, and other agency needs.

After gathering public comments on what issues the plan should address, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan;
2. Issues resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

Rationale will be provided in the plan for each issue placed in category two or three. In addition to these major issues, a number of management questions and concerns will be addressed in the plan. The public is encouraged to help identify these questions and concerns during the scoping phase.

Preliminary planning criteria have also been identified to guide development of the plan decisions and selection of a preferred alternative. Some key criteria are as follows. The plan decisions will: 1. Be completed in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA, King Range Act and other applicable laws and policies; 2. Recognize lifestyles and concerns of area residents; 3. Be consistent with NW Forest Plan; and 4. Carry forward the zoning concept of the original KRMP, and existing relevant decisions from the original plan and amendments/supplements. The public will have an opportunity to provide comments and update planning criteria as part of the scoping process.

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified.

Background Information

On October 21, 1970, Congress passed the King Range Act (Pub. L. 91-476) creating the KRNCA. The area encompasses approximately 63,000 acres in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, California. The KRNCA includes 35 miles of Pacific coastline backed by peaks climbing to 4,000 feet. The area is bordered on the north and east by a mixture of public and private lands, and on the south by the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

The KRMP was completed in 1974 and has been amended a number of times to reflect changing public needs, new laws, and executive orders. Several significant multi-discipline and activity plans have also been completed, including the KRNCA Extension Plan (1981), Allotment Management Plan (1984), Transportation Plan (1986), Cultural Resources Management Plan (1988), Wilderness Recommendations/EIS (1988), and Northwest Forest Plan (1994). Information and decisions from

these existing plans may be incorporated into this plan revision.

The King Range Act requires that the "plan will be reviewed and reevaluated periodically". To date, updates have been completed on an as-needed basis to respond to changing public demands, resource needs or public policies affecting a specific aspect of the management program. This effort will serve as the first comprehensive plan update since the original KRMP was completed in 1974.

Lynda Roush,

Arcata Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 02-25924 Filed 10-10-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Inv. No. 337-TA-450]

Certain Integrated Circuits, Processes for Making Same, and Products Containing Same; Notice of Final Determination and Issuance of Limited Exclusion Order

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has found a violation of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1337) as to one claim of one patent and has issued a limited exclusion order in the above-captioned investigation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Clara Kuehn, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436, telephone 202-205-3012. Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). Copies of the Commission order, the Commission opinion in support thereof, and all nonconfidential documents filed in connection with this investigation are or will be available for inspection during official business hours (8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436, telephone 202-205-2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission instituted this investigation by notice published in the **Federal**

Register on March 6, 2001. 66 FR 13567 (2001). The complainants were United Microelectronics Corporation, Hsinchu City, Taiwan; UMC Group (USA), Sunnyvale, CA; and United Foundry Service, Inc., Hopewell Junction, NY. *Id.* The Commission named two respondents, Silicon Integrated Systems Corp., Hsinchu City, Taiwan, and Silicon Integrated Systems Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA (collectively, "SiS"). *Id.* The complaint, as supplemented, alleged violations of section 337 in the importation, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain integrated circuits and products containing same by reason of infringement of claims 1, 2, and 8 of U.S. Letters Patent 5,559,352 ("the '352 patent") and claims 1, 3-16, and 19-21 of U.S. Letters Patent 6,117,345 ("the '345 patent"). *Id.* On November 2, 2001, the presiding administrative law judge ("ALJ") issued an initial determination ("ID") (ALJ Order No. 15) granting complainants' motion for summary determination on the issue of importation and denying respondents' motion for summary determination of lack of importation. That ID was not reviewed by the Commission. A tutorial session was held on November 5, 2001, and an evidentiary hearing was held from November 7, 2001, through November 16, 2001, and from December 10, 2001, through December 12, 2001. The ALJ issued his final ID on May 6, 2002, concluding that there was no violation of section 337. With respect to the '352 patent, the ALJ found that: Complainants have not established that the domestic industry requirement is met; none of respondents' accused devices infringe any asserted claim of the '352 patent literally or under the doctrine of equivalents; and claims 1 and 2 of the '352 patent are invalid as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102 and claim 8 of the '352 patent is invalid for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103. With respect to the '345 patent, the ALJ found each of the claims listed in the notice of investigation, *i.e.*, claims 1, 3-16, 19-20, and 21, invalid as anticipated by and made obvious by certain prior art. The ALJ stated that, in their post-hearing filings, complainants asserted only claims 1, 3-5, 9, 11-13, and 20-21 of the '345 patent against respondents. He found that, if valid, each of the asserted claims of the '345 patent, *i.e.*, claims 1, 3-5, 9, 11-13, and 20-21, is literally infringed by SiS's existing (or old) SiON manufacturing process, but that respondents' new N₂O process does not infringe any asserted claim of the '345 patent. The ALJ further found that a

APPENDIX B

BLM Public Input SF Weekly Newspaper Ad



BLM Seeks Public Input on Management Plan for King Range National Conservation Area *The “Lost Coast” of California*



The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is updating its 1974 Management Plan for the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) in northern California. Located in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, California, and encompassing approximately 63,000 acres, the King Range NCA extends along 35 miles of rugged coastline between the mouth of the Mattole River in the north and the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park to the south. The area, popularly known as the “Lost Coast,” is about 200 miles north of San Francisco and offers an array of recreational opportunities.

Over the next two years, the BLM will be preparing both a Management Plan update and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public participation is an essential part of the planning process to identify key issues and priorities, ideas for improving management practices, visitor services and facilities, as well as topics for analysis in the EIS. To gather public input, the BLM will host public meetings in November throughout northern California. For Bay Area residents, the most convenient meeting location will be:

Public Scoping Meeting Thursday, November 7, 2002

Fort Mason Center
Marina Room
San Francisco, CA
6:00-8:00 pm

If you wish to submit written comments, please mail them by December 15, 2002, to BLM, 1695 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA 95521. Or you may submit comments via the website at www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/king_range.html. For information about other meeting locations in Northern California, please call (707) 825-2368

APPENDIX C

King Range Newsletter and Visioning Sheet

KING RANGE

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE OCTOBER 2002

A RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE KING RANGE NCA

Greetings from the King Range!

As fall settles on the Lost Coast, dusty roads become damp from the first rains of the season, fewer campers and hikers come to visit, and local residents begin preparing for winter. It's an ideal time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. The Bureau of Land Management is doing just that – in a big way – as we begin efforts to update the Management Plan for the King Range National Conservation Area.

We will use this plan to guide management and stewardship of King Range public lands for the next two decades. The original plan has been amended several times since its adoption in 1974, and over the years, new programs have been created to address changing environmental conditions, visitor demands and pressing needs. It is time to update the plan.

Updating the Management Plan offers both the BLM and the community a unique opportunity to produce a comprehensive long-range plan – one that will address current needs and guide us into the future. To create this blueprint for the area's future, we will listen to and work closely with the community, visitors and everyone who cares about the King Range. We cordially invite you to participate in this planning process. You can start by filling out the attached Visioning Worksheet and attending one of the Public Scoping Meetings in November (see inside).

Please share your ideas about ways we can improve the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) and have a positive influence on neighboring communities and the larger region. During the past several years, the BLM has heard many concerns and ideas expressed by local community members and visitors about such topics as fire management, stream restoration, public access, improvements to visitor services and facilities, and the desire for more educational programs – just to name a few. We'll be exploring these and other ideas that are raised during this planning process.

So please join us in charting the future of this magnificent area and help preserve its legacy for future generations to enjoy. The range of possibilities is in your hands.



Lynda Roush
Arcata Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management



THEN AND NOW

Things have changed quite a bit since the King Range National Conservation Area Management Plan was first issued in 1974. The region's population has grown, its economic base has changed, and recreational use of the area has increased dramatically, placing more demands on the King Range than ever before.

For example, when the plan was written in 1974, Shelter Cove had about 30 homes and use on the Lost Coast Trail totaled less than 1,000 visitors annually. Now, in 2002, Shelter Cove has 450 houses – with over 50 new homes being built this year alone – and use on the Lost Coast Trail is expected to exceed 17,000 visitors.

Not only do we need to update the plan to address current conditions, we also need to craft a plan that can anticipate and adapt to future trends and changes for the next 20 years, while still preserving the King Range's unique characteristics. During this planning process, the BLM and the public will work together to create a vision for the King Range's future. What do you think the King Range should look like in 20 years? in 50 years? in 100 years? Once we define the vision, we must figure out how best to achieve it.



The Lost Coast of Northern California

THE KING RANGE AND ITS CONSERVATION

The King Range National Conservation Area offers visitors from all over the world the opportunity to experience over 35 miles of rugged coastline, soaring cliffs and more than 60,000 acres of lush forests in northern California's Humboldt and Mendocino counties. Extending between the mouth of the Mattole River in the north and the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park to the south, the region is known as the "Lost Coast" because the steep terrain, harsh weather, and unstable soils have naturally limited road building and development.

Its dramatic beauty and uniqueness prompted a group of local residents to propose special protection of the area. The U.S. Congress responded by passing the King Range National Conservation Area Act in 1970. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, was assigned responsibility for acquiring and managing public lands within the designated conservation area. In 1974, BLM produced a Management Plan, describing policies, types of land uses, activities and programs that would be used to achieve the Act's objectives. This is the plan that we are now updating.

Today, the King Range remains one of the longest and rarest stretches of coastline in the country protected in a wild, primitive, natural condition. The area offers an array of public uses, including backpacking, car camping, wildlife viewing, hunting and scenic driving to name a few. While our basic mission remains the same – conserving the area's unique and primitive coastal environment – the plan update gives everybody a chance to review and improve the way we manage the range to achieve that goal. The plan update will help ensure that the King Range National Conservation Area remains a legacy for future generations to enjoy – just as all of us do today.



UPDATING THE PLAN — HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

The Management Plan is a guide for preserving and enjoying the King Range National Conservation Area – for today and for the future. The plan update will build upon the vision of the original plan and its evolution over the past three decades. The update process will also take into account the changes that have occurred in the area's environment, in the types of uses and numbers of visitors, and in neighboring Lost Coast communities.

The King Range NCA Management Plan, first adopted in 1974, has been amended previously to address a variety of issues:

- Transportation (1986)
- Wilderness area recommendations (1988, 1991)
- Fire management (1988)
- Visitor services (1992)
- Old growth forest species (Northwest Forest Plan 1994)
- Black Sands Beach closure to off-highway vehicles (1998)

The existing plan provides a good foundation, and many of the management decisions and programs will be carried forward and integrated into the plan update. However, we want your ideas and suggestions about how we might best update the plan to meet current and future challenges and community priorities.

Some of the key topics that we have heard about from the public over the last several years include:

- visitation and tourism,
- balancing competing land uses,
- maintaining a sustainable environment while accommodating visitors and public uses,
- fire management,
- public access,
- working cooperatively with private property owners,
- economic opportunities,
- forest products gathering (mushrooms, beargrass, etc.),
- fish and wildlife habitat,
- watershed restoration, and
- water quality – just to name a few!

We'll be exploring these and other ideas that are raised during this planning process. It is important to identify key concerns and topics early, so they can be incorporated into the planning process and environmental analysis.

While updating the plan, we also will be guided by certain legal parameters, along with consideration of environmental and social conditions which will shape the area's future. Some of the laws that are relevant to our plan include the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and National Historic Preservation Act. With this guidance, we will work together to determine which BLM management policies and practices are working well, and what improvements can best help to adjust the plan to address current conditions, community and visitor priorities, and future trends.



A RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES

PARTNERS IN PLANNING - HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

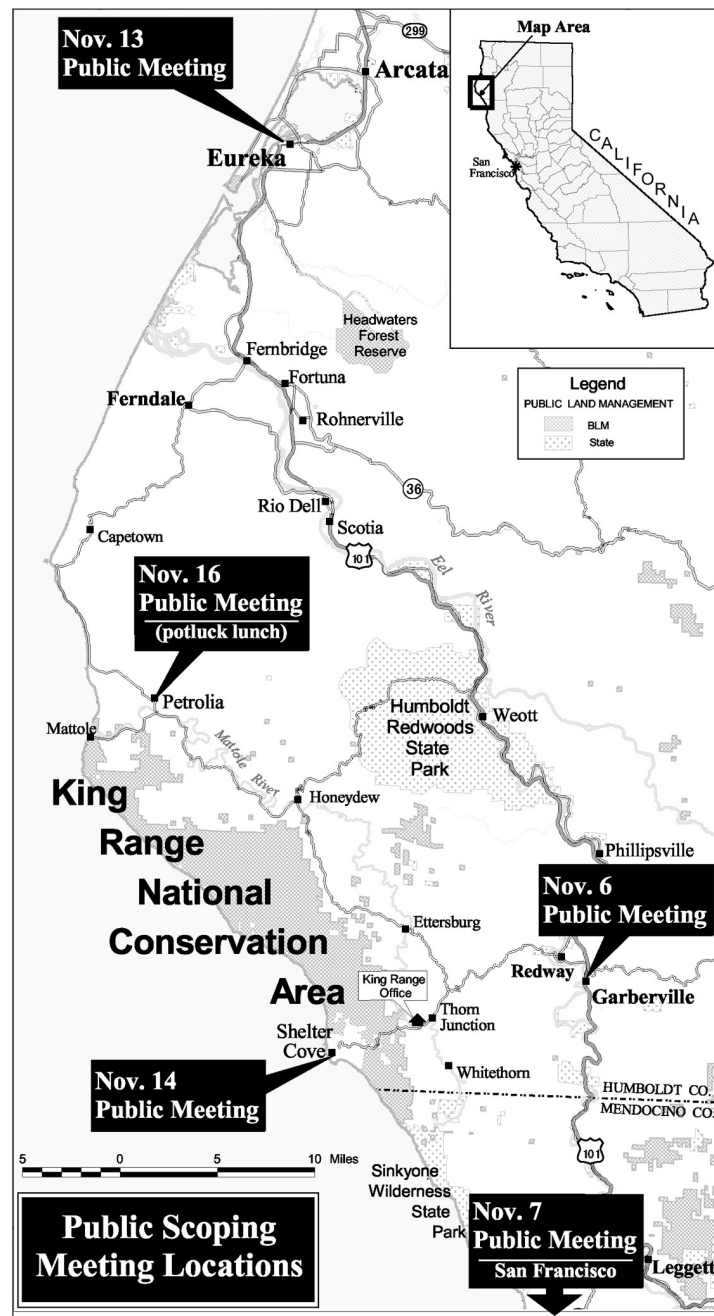
A great plan requires community involvement in the planning process. We want to hear from you. You can get involved in a number of ways.

1. Start by filling out the Visioning Worksheet and send it back to us by December 15, 2002.
2. Attend one of the public scoping meetings in November 2002.
3. Contact us by phone or via website anytime during the process.
4. Participate in workshops in the Winter and Spring 2003 to discuss specific topics and alternative approaches.
5. Give us your comments on the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement – likely available for public review in Summer 2003. (An Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared along with the Management Plan update.)
6. Participate in the second set of public meetings – in Summer 2003 – to discuss the Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. See timeline on back page.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS KICK OFF THE PLANNING PROCESS THE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES BEGINS WITH YOU!

Help us kick off the planning process by attending one of the public scoping meetings. This first set of meetings will focus on developing a long-range vision for the future of the King Range NCA, as well as flesh out the spectrum of goals, concerns, ideas, problems and potential solutions that people have.

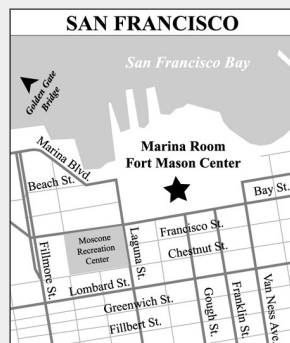
See the maps to find the time and place that's most convenient for you. If you can't attend one of these meetings, you can still share your ideas by filling out the Visioning Worksheet and/or contacting us by phone or on our website.



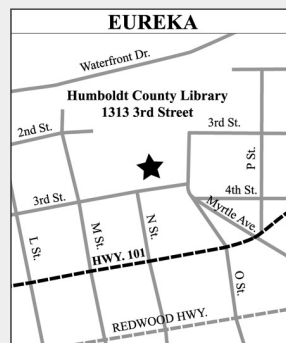
Wednesday
November 6th, 6-8 PM
Veteran's Memorial Building
483 Conger St.
Garberville, CA



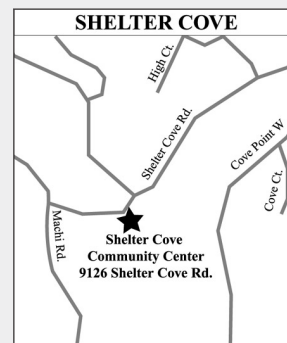
Thursday
November 7th, 6-8 PM
Fort Mason Center
Marina Room
San Francisco, CA



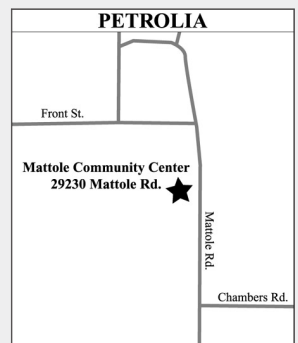
Wednesday
November 13th, 6-8 PM
Humboldt County Library
1313 3rd St.
Eureka, CA



Thursday
November 14th, 6-8 PM
Shelter Cove Community Center
9126 Shelter Cove Rd.
Shelter Cove, CA

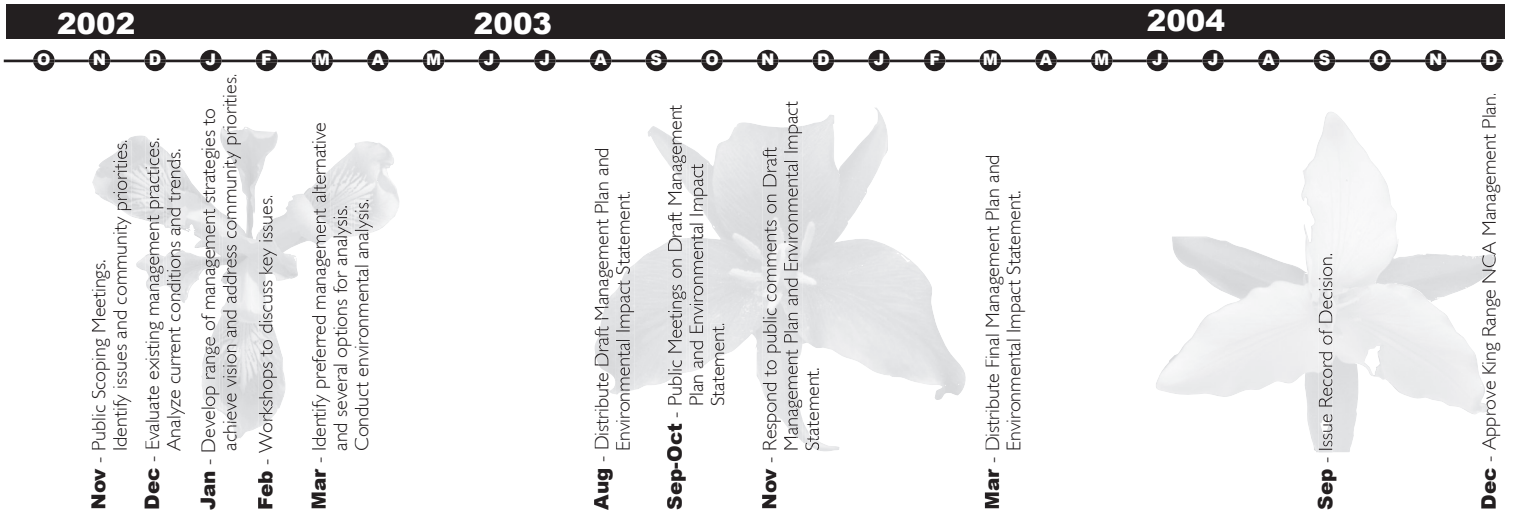


Saturday
November 16th, 1-4 PM
Mattole Community Center
29230 Mattole Road
Petrolia, CA
This one will be a Potluck!



TIMELINE OF PLANNING PROCESS

Dates are subject to change.



CONTACT US!

Do you have questions or comments about the Management Plan update process? Please contact:

Bureau of Land Management - Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Rd.
Arcata, CA 95521

Plan Hotline 707.825.2368

For general information about visiting the King Range NCA, please call 707.986.5400

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/king_range.html

You may also obtain progress information and submit your comments via our website. To receive future news about the King Range planning process, please write, call or contact us via the website to be added to the mailing list. (If you received this Planning Update through the mail, you're already on our list and don't need to sign up.)



Photography by Bob Wick
 Design by

EDAW

Printed on recycled paper



U. S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management - Arcata Field Office
 1695 Heindon Road
 Arcata, CA 95521

A RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES
PLANNING THE FUTURE OF THE KING RANGE NCA

KING RANGE

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Before diving into the nuts and bolts of the planning process, we want to develop a broad "vision" for the future of the King Range National Conservation Area that reflects the values of the community – the people who live here, who visit and who care about the King Range. The Plan will guide the area's management practices for the next 20 years, so we need a clear understanding of where we are going and what we want to accomplish. Please take a few minutes to fill out this brief worksheet to help us develop a vision for the King Range National Conservation Area. You may add more pages if you wish. Please return by December 15, 2002.

NAME: _____ PHONE (optional): _____
 ORGANIZATION (if any): _____ EMAIL (optional): _____
 ADDRESS: _____

☐ Please do not add my name to the King Range Plan mailing list.

If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, may be available for public inspection in their entirety.

A VISION FOR THE KING RANGE

What do you value most about the King Range National Conservation Area, and why? _____

What changes would you like to see? _____

What is your vision for the future of the King Range National Conservation Area? What do you want it to look like in 20 years? Or even in 50 years when our grandchildren come here? _____

ENVIRONMENT

What are your key concerns about the environment within the King Range? Please be specific. _____

VISITOR SERVICES

What improvements should be made to better accommodate visitors (e.g., campgrounds, trails, etc.)? Please be specific. _____

What aspects of visitor services and facilities do you like most and want to keep the same? _____

How often do you visit the King Range National Conservation Area?

_____ several times a year _____ once a year _____ once every few years _____ I've never visited

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The King Range National Conservation Area is part of the fabric of the surrounding communities. It is tied into the local economies, recreational activities, culture and social activities of its neighbors.

If you live near the King Range NCA, please let us know . . . what are the greatest benefits of living near the King Range NCA? _____

What is the greatest drawback? _____

What could be done to improve the King Range NCA's effects on surrounding communities (e.g., the local economy, tourism, traffic, etc.)? Please be specific. _____

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? (attach additional sheets if needed) _____

Thank you! Please return by December 15, 2002.

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37 cent
stamp
required

Bob Wick, Plan Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management –Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Rd.
Arcata, CA 95521



KING RANGE
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

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APPENDIX D

BLM Public Input Flyer

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

ON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR

KING RANGE

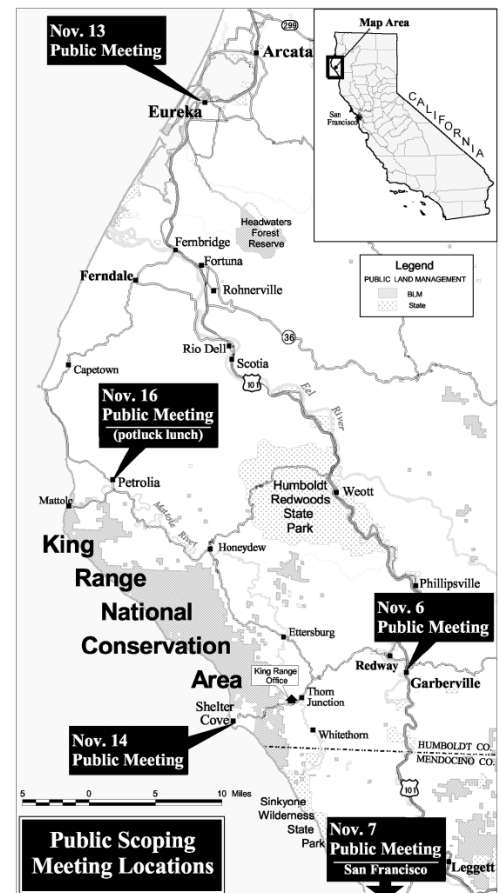
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

(THE "LOST COAST")

Help the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) update the Management Plan for the King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA). Extending 35 miles between the mouth of the Mattole River and the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, the King Range National Conservation Area's rugged coastline, soaring cliffs and 63,000 acres of lush forests represent a rare back-country coastal environment – one of the last in the nation. This plan will direct management of the area for at least the next 20 years, and your ideas are key to shaping this future vision.

Help us kick off the planning process by attending one of our public scoping meetings. This first series of meetings will focus on developing a long-term vision for the future of the King Range NCA, as well as identify the spectrum of goals, concerns, ideas, problems and potential solutions that our communities may have.

Please choose the meeting time and place that's most convenient for you. To learn more about the plan or provide additional input, please call (707) 825-2368, or visit our website at www.ca.blm.gov/arcata/king_range.html



THE PLANNING PROCESS BEGINS WITH YOU!

Wednesday
November 6th, 6-8 PM
Veterans Memorial Building
483 Conger St.
Garberville, CA

Thursday
November 7th, 6-8 PM
Fort Mason Center
Marina Room
San Francisco, CA

Wednesday
November 13th, 6-8 PM
Humboldt County Library
1313 3rd St.
Eureka, CA

Thursday
November 14th, 6-8 PM
Shelter Cove Community Center
9126 Shelter Cove Rd.
Shelter Cove, CA

Saturday
November 16th, 1-4 PM
Mattole Community Center
29230 Mattole Road
Petrolia, CA
This one will be a Potluck!

